

Number 17

\$2.95

THRASH

FEATURING:



VENGEANCE

THRASH!

DELIVERANCE

THE NEED FOR SPEED



ONE BAD PIG

ALSO...

Leviticus
King's X
Barnabas
Malachia
Ezra

Barren Cross
Vengeance Centerfold!



Heaven's Metal is a bi-monthly magazine covering the metal of the kingdom. Jesus is the ruler of this kingdom. All reverence, praise and honor are due Him.

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***Member of Martyrs' Cross
Zines***

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Each subscriber to Heaven's Metal has two prayer partners. The way I've arranged that is by taking the name above and below each name on the subscription list and matched them, so that the same people you're praying for have your name also. If you don't have the names and addresses of your prayer partners (there's a lot of you), write in and I'll send 'em to you.

If you'd like to receive bulks of Heaven's Metal to hand out to friends or at concerts, etc, send \$1.50 per issue (minimum of 10).

If you'd like to advertise in Heaven's Metal, or know someone who would, get them in touch with me.

If you know a store that would be open to carrying Heaven's Metal, have the person who orders magazines contact me.

If you'd be willing to make xerox copies of a Heaven's Metal flyer and post it around your town, record stores, etc, I'll send you a master copy.

Heaven's Metal sells Pure Metal records, tapes and compact discs through the mail. R & K are \$7.98 each. Cd's are \$10.98. Please add \$1.50 postage. This is predominantly a service to those who can't find Pure Metal product where you live. Please don't order if you're expecting to receive a new release as soon as it comes out, because I receive the product later than the stores do.

Heaven's Metal t-shirts are here! There's two colors to choose from: turquoise or yellow. It features the Heaven's Metal logo and the slogan "Worship At Full Volume". Cost is \$10 (Overseas add \$2.50 for

Air Mail postage.) All I have left at this point are 18 in large and extra large. If I sell out of one color early, I'll have to send you the other selection.

Why not give the gift of Heaven's Metal? 18 people in Kansas now have subscriptions, because of the generosity of one person. Also consider getting a gift subscription for a "rock star." You can usually find fan mail addresses to any secular rock band in Metal Edge magazine. Why not send 'em an issue and pray that God uses it to draw 'em near to Him?

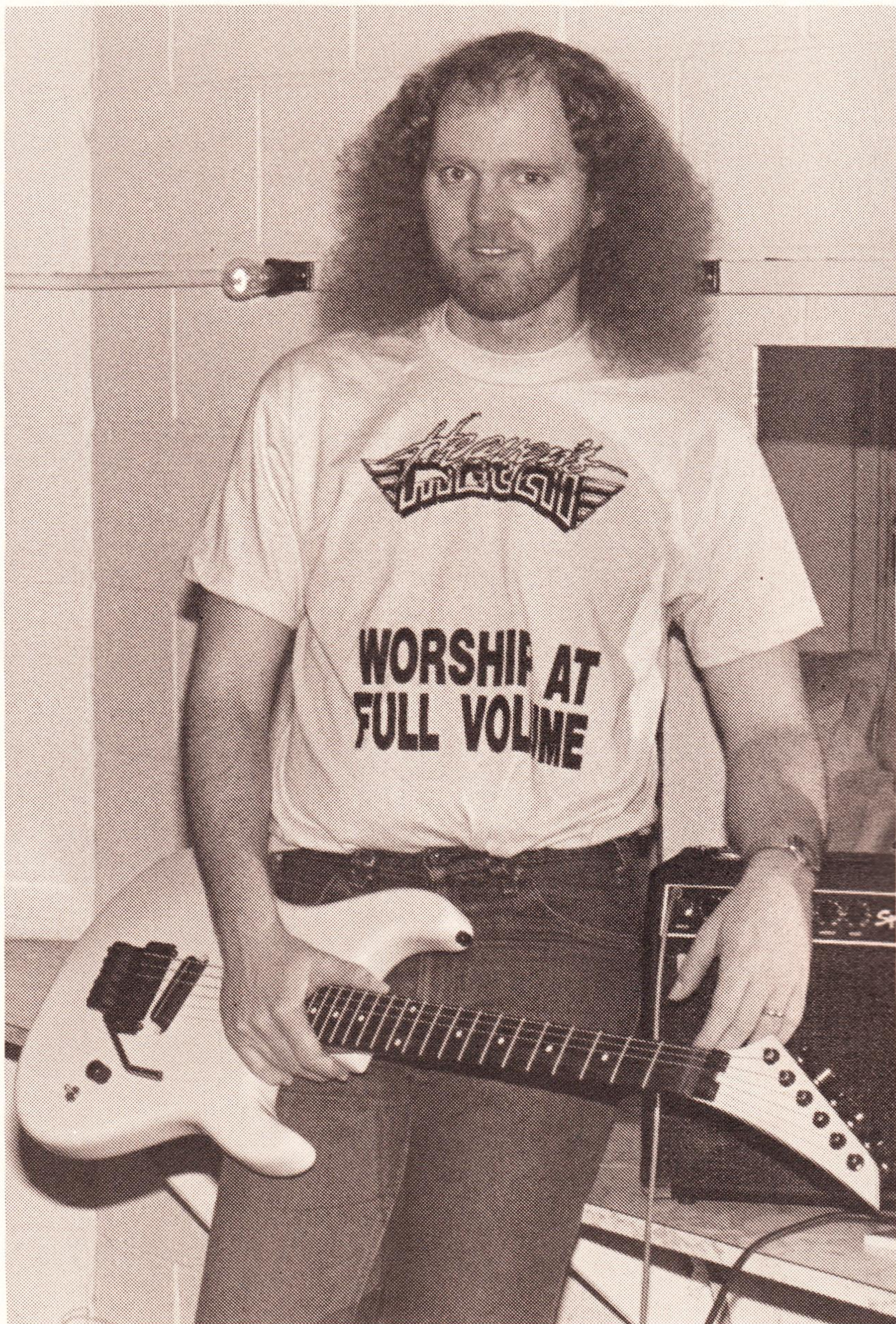
Real good news! Heaven's Metal is now distributed through Spring Arbor to Christian bookstores. If you'd like to see your local bookstore sell Heaven's Metal, tell 'em to order it from Spring Arbor and give 'em the following ISBN #: 000-688-7104.

Bands that want to try to get their product distributed through Spring Arbor: send Mike Delaney a copy of your music. Write: Spring Arbor, 10885 Textile Rd, Belleville MI 48111-0985, Attention: Mike Delaney. Give it a shot! Maybe they'll pick it up.

Due to the increase in postal rates and the fact that I lose a tremendous amount of money on each foreign subscription (at over \$2 per issue, it's easy to see how \$8 for a 6-issue subscription is a losing venture.), **subscription prices are now \$7.77** (Texas residents add 7 1/4% sales tax). Overseas subs are now \$16.00, and Canadian subs are now \$8.00.

\$8.

Rex Carrol (Photo By Curtis Tarpley)



Heaven's Metal t-shirts are here!

THRASH METAL: The Need For Speed

Thrash--what at first seems chaotic and simple becomes melodious and complex upon close examination. The thrash metal craze has matured to the point where it holds its own niche in the metal market.

This special thrash issue features interviews with the hottest thrash bands in Christian metal, as well as updated news on: Believer; The Lead; Martyr; and Valor.

Also discussed is the soon-to-be-controversial issue of "moshing." We'll read comments by the makers of this music that caters to slam-dancing, as well as moshers themselves.

Travelling with Barren Cross as a guitar-tech and all around stage set-up person is Tony "Master of the Mosh" Mavaris. Tony abandons his stage-left position to join or start a mosh pit near the front of the stage during speedish songs like **Cultic Regime** in BC's set.

****Comment on moshing, Tony.**

"Well, in some places they take it one way as banging your head or slam dancing. They call moshing the same thing. My personal opinion? Moshing to me is just bangin' my head and gettin' a little crazy with the people, not necessarily anything unnecessarily violent or anything like that. Just getting crazy and having a good time. Dancing in the form of fast music."

Thrash or speed metal has also influenced the top three Christian metal bands, with Bloodgood doing **Black Snake** and **Battle Of The Flesh**, Barren Cross penning **Cultic Regimes**, and even Stryper joining the bandwagon with the fast-paced **The Reign**, on their latest, **In God We Trust**. Although these bands have done super fast songs, Deliverance and Vengeance really show us how it's to be done. Both acts are signed with Intense Records and should have albums out before the end of the year. Vengeance should be the first out, which is sure to make heads roll, sometime in August, which will be called **Human Sacrifice**.

Valor reports that their debut full-length album, tentitively titled **Fight For Your Life**, will be out in late August or early September. Their last tape, which was called **Masquerade**, had some good speed metal tunes on it. Valor shys away from the label thrash or speed, deciding to call their mixture of speed and commercial metal "Quick Metal."

It's going to feature songs off their **Masquerade** tape, including: **Fight For Your Life**; **Burn**; and **Masquerade**. Some of the newer tunes included will be: **Accept Him**; **It's Not Too Late**; and **Valor**.

To contact Valor, get on their mailing list, or order a copy of **Masquerade**, write: Valor, PO Box 1653, San Leandro CA 94577.



VALOR

The Lead have made a big splash on the underground market with their brand of punk speed metal. They're on tour up the East Coast as they make their way up to Cornerstone, where they're on the same bill as **The Crucified**.

They've been signed by R.E.X. Records, which re-recorded and re-released **Past Behind**. I just received a copy and it's great. It's full of speed and thrash and a raw feel. The mix is nice and strong, one of the benefits of being signed to a label. The Lead does a great job of composing their songs, which emphasize crucial truths with well-timed pauses or passionate shouts. The cover art is perfect. This tape should be available in your local secular record store in the import section or through Spring Arbor in your local Christian

bookstore. All thrashers should love this. Buy one for an unsaved friend. It'll blow them away. The Lead have also been added to the **East Coast Metal** album, which R.E.X. president, Doug Mann, is producing. The song on it is called **Tunnel Vision**.

The Lead are always shining in the darkness, playing hardcore shows in secular clubs in their hometown area of Miami. They've opened for D.R.I., Suicidal Tendencies and Marginal Men, as well as several local bands.

To order their merchandise, such as: **Past Behind** 8-song 12" (old version) for \$6; Skull and Sword t-shirt (in M, L, XL) for \$8; Skull and Sword stickers for 25 cents; **Return Fire** 19-song tape for \$5; and **Automoloch** 6-song 12" for \$6. Send to The Lead, PO Box 822, Coconut Grove FL 33233.



THE LEAD

The Crucified is making their Cornerstone debut this year, with a perfect double-billing with The Lead. This band plays a no-holds-barred, scream and spit into the microphone style of punk/thrash.

They've got shoot-from-the-hip lyrics like: "Christian this/ Christian that/ Christian groups/ Christian cliques/ I think we've had enough/ It's just not the punk/ It's holding to the world/ It's not prejudice/ It's what the Bible says/ It's ridiculous/ There's something wrong/ Christian punk?/ What a hopeless joke."

You can order their latest tape, **Nailed**, for \$5 by writing to The Crucified, c/o Mark Johnson, 17848 Road 220, Porterville CA 93257. You can also inquire about their previous tape, **Take Up Your Cross**. (Foreign orders add \$1 postage.)



Martyr, who recently broke up, well, sort of...Actually, they have re-grouped. Gone are Mark Johnson and David Cox, and in are Marcus Colon (ex-guitarist for Deliverance, featured on their California Metal appearances) and Michael Van Asch (who also used to play guitar for Deliverance).

Martyr is now affiliated with Sanctuary and is recording a new album this summer, which they promise will include "a faster pace and horrifying sound--for all you Slayer, Exodus and Kreator fans." Mike Lee of Barren Cross is reported to appear on the album also. They will record a three-song demo of new material soon.

Spring Arbor has picked up their **Death Is Dead** nine-song cassette. You can order it with this ISBN number: 000-691-2818. They have a gig in October with Deliverance, Dark Angel, and Viking. Pray for the Spirit of God to move that night in Fontana, California.

If you'd like to get some of their merchandise, such as: an "Imminent Warfare" t-shirt, with front and back design, for \$10; 8x10 black and white foto for \$2; bumper stickers for \$2; and buttons for \$1. Shipping is \$2 for t-shirts; 25 cents for stickers or buttons. Send to: Martyr, PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90728-8330.



Believer L-R: Kurt Bachman, guitar and vocals; Joey Doub, drums; Howe Kroft, bass; and David Boddorf, rhythm guitar.

Believer is one killer band! I predict this band will be one of the leaders in Christian thrash, representing the East Coast well in this genre. This band has muscle and speed that is very domineering. They give us a small glimpse of their thrashability on their weakly produced **Return** custom tape. Wait till you hear their cut, **The Chosen**, on the East Coast Metal compact disc! Flying bass, snapping snares, and ripping guitar strings are all in your face when this band goes at it! There's definite skill presented here with lots of precision speed. **I.Y.F. (In Your Face)**, the instrumental on their **Return** tape is Believer at their gnarliest.

Doug Mann, who produced the **East Coast Metal** album and presides over R.E.X. Records, said that Believer was just a great bunch of guys to work with. These Christian thrashers fly against the grain of preconceived notions of the tough, nasty and evil stereotypes they're often portrayed as being.

You can obtain a copy of their custom three-song cassette for \$5 through the mail. This way, you'll have a head start on the compilation album and the future record contract that is sure to follow (I hope). You can also get a Believer t-shirt for \$12. Photos of the band are \$1.25. All prices include postage and handling. Send to Believer, 358 West Glade, Palatine IL 60067-6872.

The Warning can be considered one of the innovators of Christian speed metal, having been cranking out this fast music for a few years now. They recently moved their offices to PO Box 1142, Victorville CA 92393. If you'd like to order their tapes: **Repent Or Die** and **A Virgin In The Midst Of Whores**, send \$6.00 each. (Foreign orders add \$1 per tape for postage.)

The group that can be credited with first venturing into thrash for God is the now-defunct band, **Tempest**. A speed three-piece, Tempest recorded a classic tape called **Annihilation Of The Wicked**. It's killer metal with amazing lyrics, like:

"Cursed are the strong and evil/ for they shall possess their own vomit in their face/ and the wrath of Him that created the earth. In flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ." (From **Call To Evil**)

"Lost and deceived of a child mind/ playing with fire. Receiving the plagues that you ask for/ and wondering why. You try to rebel and invert the cross/ and wear pentagrams. You fools! You worship a clown/ and knew not the lamb. Who shall try? Curse God...and die!" (From **Curse God...And Die**)

Intense lyrics, huh? The music is just as intense. So why is Tempest no more? Well, I did an hour long interview with band leader, vocalist

Cont'd

Vengeance: Too Fast To Be True

****What is your name?**

"Roger Martinez, lead vocals."

"Larry Farkas, lead guitar."

"Roger Martin, bass guitar."

"Doug Thieme, rhythm guitar."

"Glen 'Maddog' Mancaruso, percussion, sometimes."

****What is your quest?**

"Literally to get the Word of God out and just to minister," says Martinez, "to serve God ultimately."

****What is the velocity of a European Swallow?**

"Two," answers Larry.

****What can thrash metal do with the Gospel that other types of music can't?**

"It can reach kids that other music can't," says Mancaruso. "Period. There's just music out there, straight heavy metal...there's thrashers that just won't listen to Stryper or some of the other bands--not ranking on those bands, but they just won't listen to it. It's not heavy enough, and basically we're one of a kind band. There's other thrash bands, but we're just one of them. And we're reaching kids that other bands can't."

****Most readers of Heaven's Metal won't have the chance to see you live for a while. Describe your show in as much detail as you'd like.**

"It's real high energy," says Martinez, "with lots of hair."

"Somehow in the future," says Farkas, "there's supposed to be a video of the Metal Mardis Gras, which we played at. And it was horrible. But maybe they might be able to get their hands on that somehow. Or if we end up doing a show and the video turns out good, maybe we can make it for sale through the band."

"Basically," says Mancaruso, "like Roger said, it's very high energy, with a lot of moving around on stage, a lot of whipping of the hair. The helicopter and basically that's it. Breaking a lot of drumsticks..."

"It's mass mania," says Martinez. "We have a lot of fun."

"A lot of sweat," says Mancaruso. "So, for those who don't get to see us for a while, get the album anyway and we'll be around, hopefully. Jump off your bed in your room when you listen to it, you'll get the idea."

"You see," says Martinez, "the only problem, California is due for this really major 'quake and so we don't know how long we're gonna be around."

****What kind of equipment do you guys use?**

"Gibson," says Farkas. "Ludwig drums. Roger can't describe what he uses. He just blew his to pieces, so we don't know what he's going to use."

"I just blew my Randall and I've got a Charvell bass and lots more stuff," says Martin.

"I use Vic Firth sticks and basically Paiste cymbals," says Mancaruso, "and some Zildjian. I like the Paiste cymbals better."

"I use Jim Dunlap Jazz 3 pics for my bass," says Martin.

"I use your basic guitar chords," says Farkas. "Stuff like that. I don't use a wireless. All I've run is a Wah pedal and Gibson guitar and a lot of distortion."

****How did each of you come to Jesus?**

"In a nutshell," says Mancaruso, "I went through the whole stage of partying and trying to be a rock star. I went through a little bit of the drug scene, but I was always afraid of it to a certain extent, so I really didn't really dwell into it real deeply so. Basically, I had almost all my friends around me become Christians and they just kept on bugging me and going to church. And I went and finally I just made a decision. The seed was planted like ten years before I even accepted Christ. And it just kept on growing and growing and God just kept on increasing that. And finally, I couldn't tell you the day exactly when it happened. It just happened. I came into a relationship with Jesus. It's been an uphill kind of road. It's got its downs and its ups, but Jesus keeps me going (How about that backwards cliché?)."

"I don't know, actually," says Farkas. "It just kinda happened, to be honest with you. I was living a scumbag life of, you know, all the same: sex; drugs; and rock and roll thing. It was really wierd. I just kinda gave up the drugs and stuff beforehand, because I wanted to get a real job, I thought. One thing kind of led to another, and it's just the way my life took route. The Lord just started working with me. He's still working with me."

"And he still hasn't got a real job," jokes Mancaruso.

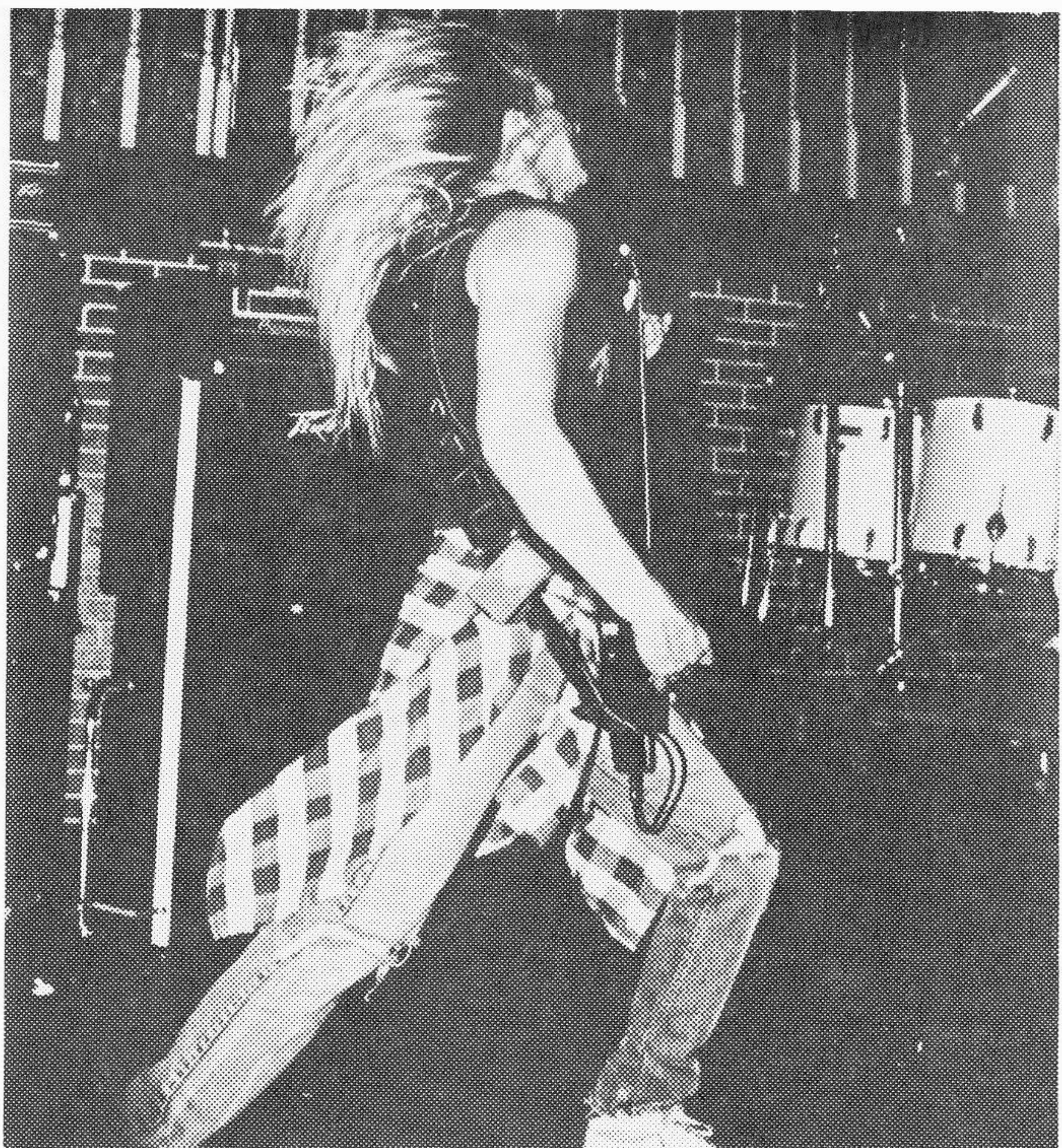
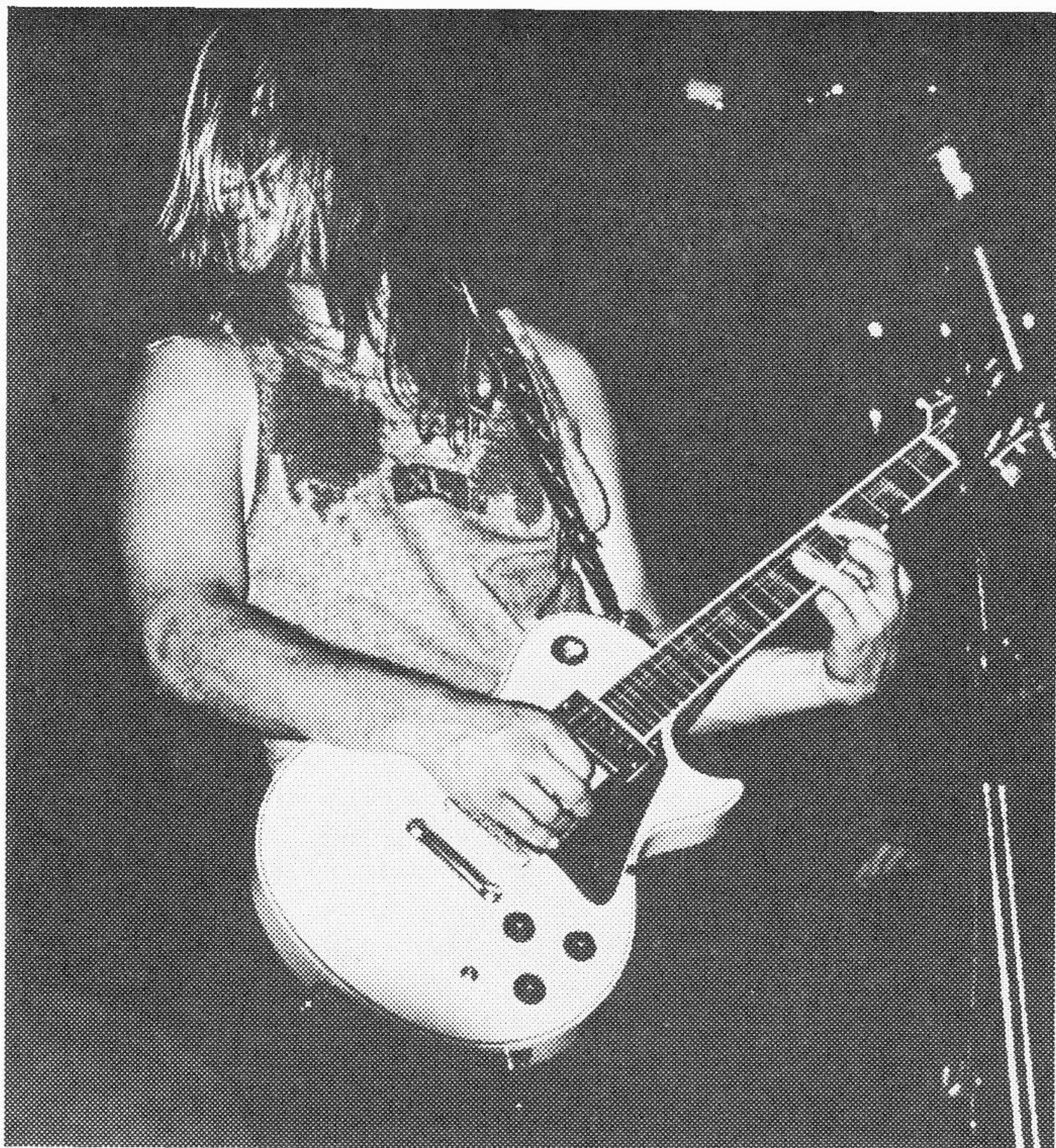
"As for me, Roger Martinez, it was a lot of different areas. I could probably begin from about a hundred different places. But one of the main ones that really affected me was the radical evangelistic outreach of two of my closest friends: Cid and Luis Alarid. We had been party friends in the world, and basically what had happened is that Luis got redeemed and at that point began sharing the gospel with me and exactly what was going on. Subsequently, his brother also got saved. Therefore, those two guys, for a period of approximately three years, were just in a very loving manner, but very firm as well, would let me know what was going down, inviting me, driving and traveling way out of the way, just to pick me up for Bible studies. Doing all these things for me. And I think that type of evangelism, where you have that type of concern--I mean Luis, who hadn't seen me for a long time, remained in total prayer for

me for three years--and this type of thing I think is very essential for Christians to understand. Hey, if your friends aren't getting saved the first week, keep going. And if it even takes a matter of you cutting off that relationship, but continuing to pray for them. Those things are totally powerful. Look at what it has done in my life. You know, so I just want to encourage the Christians: Don't give up on those people you think aren't going to get saved. I got saved through their evangelistic outreach, their love towards me through the gospel."

"I was raised in a United Methodist Church in Pleasant Hill, Oklahoma," says Martin. "I went to an altar call when I was about 12 or 13 years old. I knew all about the Lord and the Bible and stuff. When I got about 16 and 17, I really was drawn into your basic crud that everybody else...You know, I don't really know if I became a Christian at that altar call or not. Because I spent like 9 or 10 years just totally pleasure-seeking. You know, I still knew the formula. I knew what was going on, but I was doing my own thing. A guy called me to come out to California to go to work and when I came out here I was naturally looking for a band. I met this guy in a heavy metal band, and he asked me if I had any bad habits. I said, 'Well, what do you call 'bad habits?' Then I found out that this guy was a Christian and it kinda blew me away that someone was actually in a heavy metal band that was a Christian. He witnessed to me. By the way, his name was David Enis of Emerald. He witnessed to me and told me about this band that was playing out at Harvest, called the Darrell Mansfield Band. I didn't know anything about the Darrell Mansfield Band, so I went down there and saw the band. I mean, it just hit me so hard. It was totally what I wanted to do all my life and these guys were serving the Lord doing it."

Thrash/Tempest cont'd:

and bassist, Warren Harris (and may print it someday) and he told me why Tempest was no more. He fasted for forty days and God told him that He couldn't use thrash metal, because the emphasis was directed so much on how thrash, how fast and how intense the music could be; and that the Holy Spirit couldn't use it. Warren read interviews with Stryper that he considered were giving too much opportunity for sin and not emphasizing the power believers have to live over sin, a basic foundation as far as he's concerned, and his feelings about these interviews only reinforced his opinions, and he dismantled Tempest, closing the band PO Box and erasing the remaining tapes. That's basically how and why Tempest broke up. (This band, of course, is not the same Tempest currently signed to Pure Metal.)



And I was totally convicted of my sin. I was a total sinner and I rededicated my life, or actually gave my life, to the Lord. I really don't know what I did. But I went down to the altar call and all this and that. And I started a relationship then. And God helped me through a lot of things to deal with, like smoking dope. He healed me of that, really, at the first Sanctuary service I went to. You can grow in your walk with the Lord and I'm still growing."

"Basically," begins Thieme, "I was living in my car at the time. Larry, the lead guitar player here, his sister came up as I was sleeping in my car. So she invited me over to Larry's house. Larry was a Christian at the time. I was hanging around with him for a while, and he helped me get back on my feet and stuff and get a job, even though he didn't have one. He just got me going, and he just kept on nagging me about Christianity and I kept on putting him off and kept on getting high. Finally one day I went to church with him and found out what it was really all about. I said, 'Man, I'm a dirt bag.' And I accepted the Lord and he showed me where I was wrong. I was wrong everywhere. I'm still pretty much wrong, but I know what's right now. So, that's me."

**What kind of preaching do you do in concert?

"Just pretty much straight forward," says Martinez. "Just kind of seeing how the crowd is going and taking it from there. It's different everytime. So, it's always different: sometimes more; sometimes less. It's all depending on what's going on. Whether we're playing to a total Christian audience or a total secular audience or a mixed audience."

**What's the usual response from: 1) Believers?

"Usually the response is shock and disbelief," says Martin, "from those who are seeing us for the first time. But to the guys who go to the concerts, who know us, they know what's going on. It's cool."

"There's a lot of close-minded Christians out there who don't see the ministry," says Mancaruso. "They just see what we look like and what the music sounds like. And they don't take the time to really examine and see what we're all about. They reject it right off the bat and call it Satanic and you know, they just say it's not from God. My one word to those Christians right now that say that is: 'Check us out,' you know. 'Write us. If you get a chance and write us and we'll get back to you and we'll tell you what we're all about. But check it out. Seek God. Don't be close-minded about it.'"

"Yeah, the Bible says, 'You'll know them by their fruits,'" quotes Martin, "so be fruit inspectors and check out the fruit of this ministry."

"And for the people who say we're of the world because the way we

dress," continues Mancaruso, "man, I'll tell you something. This is not to be a put-down, but there's nothing more conforming than a three-piece suit."

"Not only that," says Farkas, "to be honest with you, I dress on stage like I dress everyday normally. So it's not like I get dressed up for stage-wear anyway. I mean, that's just the way I am."

**2) From nonbelievers who are so-called neutral?

"Same thing," says Martinez, "either they dig the music or they don't dig the music."

**3) From anti-God black metalists?

"There's a lot of talk and stuff from the audience or something, you know. Pretty much what we do is try to, the best we can, talk to those individuals specifically one on one. Afterwards, to let them know what's going on. And generally, you know, the music, they can't argue with that 'cause it's too powerful. I mean, there's no arguing that. The message they can argue with, but you know, that's why we'd like to be able to talk with those people, one on one. Like we were talking about before, so many of those people: who knows what their background was? Maybe their father is an alcoholic, or their mother's a, who knows what, a prostitute. Or maybe they were beaten as children. The reason they have all that anger, there's something that's gone on in their life, something that's made them turn from what is right to that. And so, I don't know what it is, whether they were just totally neglected children or abused children or whether...some of them may have had wonderful homes. But, because they had everything, they didn't realize what the bottom of the barrel is like, and they're just in rebellion--which is the same sin as witchcraft, 1st Samuel 15:23."

"I agree with Roger," says Mancaruso. "You know, that their home life is the reason why they're like they are. Like Roger said, they could have had everything. They could have had a beautiful home and all the material things, but they didn't get any love from their parents and they just rebelled. That is the parent's duty, man, to discipline their children and to love them. And that's why a lot of kids are the way they are, because their parents didn't love them and they didn't discipline them. And they didn't care enough, you know, to see what their kids were getting into."

"And some of them got all the love they can stand," says Martin, "and they're just deceived, you know."

"Basically, the response we get from them (black metalists)," says Martinez, "initially, when they first hear the music: 'They're great!' But, when they hear the message, they kinda freak. So, hopefully, even the shock factor will be enough to jolt them into thinking. You know, using their brain, which obviously they're not

doing, you know when you think about it."

**How did the theatrical aspect of your shows come along?

"We just kinda tossed ideas around at rehearsal and stuff," says Martinez. "'Yeah, this would be cool, that would be cool.' An illustrated sermon, so to speak."

"It is kinda hard," says Farkas, "because it takes cash and time to throw things like that together. We don't have either. But we'll have tricks up our sleeve here and there. We'll be coming out and giving you some surprises."

"That's right," adds Martin, "by the time you guys see us in Texas we'll be freaking and blowing your heads off man. I mean, not literally, but mentally."

**Exactly how does Sanctuary support you and facilitate follow-up?

"Basically," explains Mancaruso, "they support us, mainly through prayer. We also have a lot of support from the kids that come to the shows. Also praying for us and ministering out there. As far as all our follow-up material and anything that has to be run off, like posters or anything like that. They take care of all that for us. I'm part of the church. I'm one of the Associate Pastors of the church. Basically, we try to do all we can for all the bands that are involved with us, you know. Whether it be follow-up, or if there's any kind of need for money, try to get that situation taken care of the best we possibly can."

"The first thing they do," says Martin, "is give people these books of John. It's our owner's manual. Then we have follow-up courses. It all comes in a follow-up packet."

"Basically what we have during the nights of a show," explains Martinez, "are the gospels of John and a tape cassette that would tutor someone through the gospel without having it be confusing. It's made it very simple, as well as having an extensive amount of materials available to the nonbeliever or to the young Christian who needs to be extremely rooted in the Word of God, which is one of our main priorities--having people rooted in the Word of God. Because that's the main thing...that's going to be the pillar when it comes right down to where the rubber meets the road in their life. Not who's cool and who's not. So, in that way, they help by extensively putting those materials together, getting them in our hands, inviting the entire congregation of rooted believers to different concerts for the purpose of follow-up and discipleship. Which is obviously that one on one friendship that occurs between people who meet each other and maintain a relationship around the Word of God, rather than around what the world has to offer, which is all passing away. So, they do help us in a lot of intense ways. The main one being prayer, which is where the battle's done, for we wrestle not

against flesh and blood."

**What has God told you about Vengeance?

"Well, He's given us His Word," continues Martinez, "and told us to 'Go ye therefore, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.' That's what He's told me. And that's exactly the way God speaks to me, I know. (Turning to the others) If God told you something else, let me know."

"Basically, this is His band," says Mancaruso. "I agree with Roger, man. God speaks through His Word."

"God speaks through His Word," says Martin, "not some audible voice, you know. I mean, He can. God can do anything. He is God, He is God. He can do anything He wants to. But so far to us, He's spoken through His Word."

"It's on a daily basis," adds Martinez.

"He's confirmed a lot of things also through...we've gotten letters from people that don't even know us, man, who've been praying for us. And God just has spoken to them personally, just about some of our needs and stuff. And it really confirms a lot of things, through other people and through His Word. Just seek Him in prayer."

"The main thing, though, Vengeance is God's band. He's been putting this band together for two years now. It basically started with Roger Martin and Doug."

"Bob was playing thrash piano," adds Farkas.

"After Roger and I got it going," says Thieme, "it finally evolved with the existing members as it is and that's the way it's going to be. Amen. Until God tells us otherwise."

**For those sceptics and critics, who are believers who've picked up this magazine, what would you like to say to 'em?

"As for their attitude of 'this has gone too far, look at these guys, they look so angry!' That photo, we were having a good time," says Martinez. "We were having a blast. We were laughing all during that photo session, just being who we are. Then these guys were telling us, 'Look mean!' (We said) 'No way man!' 'Yeah, you've got to or else these kids aren't going to dig it.' So we were joking around and started taking a few serious shots and stuff for the fun of it. Even that picture is just for the fun of it."

"They said that years ago," remarks Martin. "'Oh wow. They've gone too far.'"

"They said that years ago," remarks Martin. "'Oh wow, they've gone too far.' They say, 'You scumbag sinners. You're singing these songs these scumbag sinners sing.' Nothing's new."

"Basically, what we had asked them to do was really take a look at what we're saying," reports Martinez. "You know, read the lyrics. Open your Bible. Blow the dust off it

and check out what it says. That would, I think, substantiate our position. We would like to discuss with anyone the Biblical specifics of our ministry and what is occurring through it. To maintain unity obviously, but if there are those who want to simply argue, well, the Bible says to reject an adverse individual after the first and second admonition--in Titus, chapter three. Therefore, we'll maintain that."

"'They look so angry,' Martin repeats. "That's not anger. It's exhilaration. We're enjoying it. We're playing fast and we love it. It's fun, it's just like 'Gaa, this is great,' you know. It's just not anger, it's like intensity on the face, you know. Like, you know, you've got to play fast, you've got to play real fast. You've got to play hard, you've got to play real hard. And you're not going to be there with some smile on your face."

"Yeah, we're not a glam band," says Farkas.

**What are the golden lessons that God has had to teach you guys thus far, as far as your ministry goes?

"We're still learning too," says Farkas, "as it goes on, taking it step by step."

"Listen to Him," says Martin. "Persevere, man, through all the trials. Perseverance. Patience. Although, He's been working really fast lately."

"He's taught me to take the talent He's given me and use it to the best of my ability," says Mancaruso. "Because the band does require a lot of endurance on my part and it's really whipped me into shape. God has given me a talent and I've got to use it to the best I can. I try to use it the best I can. And God does the rest."

"He's continually teaching us all the time," says Martin.

"Not only that," adds Mancaruso, "but learning just how to fellowship with these guys in the band more and stay in more prayer. He's always got us in a situation where we've always got to seek Him."

"God answers prayer," says Martin. "He's taught us that."

"He's always reminded us that we need Him," says Mancaruso. "Amen."

**What's the scoop with your name? I heard there were legal hassles over the copyright or whatever.

"Basically, what has happened," explains Martinez, "is there was about 150,000 different Vengeances that exist in about 151 states or cities or countries, whatever. There's a couple different bands that have called themselves this name, and there's even some recordings out. What we've been advised to do is maintain it within the United States, because we have the rights as we now know it, due to the fact that our album will be from here to New York and everywhere in between. We've pretty much left it up to the record company to deal with. For the European sales and things like that, they're just going to stick something on it."

Basically, every time we've looked under something, it's never come to anything. So, we're just kinda letting the record company handle it. Let them do what they will and whatever. We're just going to keep going, and whatever happens, happens."

**Are you guys planning on touring outside of California soon, besides Cornerstone?

"Totally," continues Martinez. "Everywhere."

"We're going to Puerto Rico on July 30th," says Mancaruso. "We're going up to Chicago, which is another country too."

"As soon as we can get some management and booking," says Martinez, "we want to get all over this country, as well as Europe."

**How do you play so fast? After you stop laughing, answer seriously. How does one play thrash?

"Aaaahhh!" screams Martin.

"We don't have a ground switch on our amps," explains Farkas, "so it's like we get this electricity going through our guitars and it just kinda shocks us. No."

"Actually," says Martin, "it's practice. It's hard practice. All these guys who think speed metal is a bunch of junk, they're full of junk. Because it's hard. It takes practice. If I personally go one week without playing, I can't play our tunes, man. They're too fast. And that goes with everybody. It's hard work. A lot of endurance. You've just got to build up to it and then you've got to maintain it, otherwise you lose it."

"I wake up screaming every morning, dude," says Martinez. "No, I'm joking."

**What would you like to say to the average Christian metal fan?

"Hi," says Farkas. "I don't know. What does he want to say to me?"

"If you're a metal fan and you're not into thrash," says Mancaruso, "support us in prayer at least. You may not agree with our style of music and you may not like it, man, but I'll tell you as a brother or sister, support us in prayer. We're getting the Word out there. And, to the one that likes our music, buy our album."

"And, obviously we'd like just to maintain that if things are robbing you from your time in prayer and with the Word of God," says Martinez. "You know, 2 Timothy 2:15, 'Study to show thyself approved, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.' Hey, the whole Christian body does not need to be ashamed when you're talking to your friends about the Word of God. Know it thoroughly, because that's your sword. The Bible says, 'it's the sword of the Spirit.' You can have all the other things, in Ephesians 6, but if you don't know how to use your sword, you're going to constantly be on the defense and you need to be constantly on the offense. You know, so that would just be something obviously we'd like to see a strong Christian body,

"If I personally go one week without playing, I can't play our tunes, man. They're too fast."



as much as is possible. So we really encourage you're attending a local congregation. Maintaining that fellowship with believers and the evangelism you can use our music through."

**Roger, what's it like pastoring Sanctuary in Hollywood?

"It's totally cool. It's really neat. We're right on Hollywood Boulevard, between Manns Chinese Theater and Vine Street. We've had a neat fellowship up there. We've been going strong for a while now. It's just been growing. We've had a lot of really just good times up there. Just getting into the Word and it's been happening. So, it's totally cool. It's been going really strong. We are unfortunately in a place that holds only 49 people, so we have about 65. We have standing along the walls and stuff. We've been there six months and have 65 regularly attending Sunday afternoons at 2:00. We're going through a growth season right now, so we're looking for a larger facility. That way we can grow. Because we're going to get kicked out if we get too many more people."

**What's each service like?

"Basically, like your average Sunday morning service. We have our time of worship through music, and we have our announcements and we have the teaching from the Word of God for a good amount of time. We tape each Sunday service and Tuesday evening Bible study and make those tapes subsequently available free of charge on a library basis, which is totally cool. So the teaching is totally there."

**What did it take to get started?

"It took well over a year of definite planning and prayer. Getting the staff together. Getting those people together. Just getting together in unity. Making sure that everyone understood and agreed to all the specific doctrine that we hold to, which is real close to the Baptist frame of reference. And just maintaining that. We have doctrinal statements available also."

"So, it took over a year of planning, seeking for a place. We were literally turned down by every single church in Hollywood to use their facilities. So, we're renting out a place in Hollywood that's called Haunted Studios, but it's not haunted when we get there."

**Tell me about your album.

"It's got 13 songs on it. Caesar was the executive producer."

**Any lyrical themes woven into all the songs?

"Repent. No, each song is totally different. Each song is totally within itself. Like **Human Sacrifice**, that's about the crucifixion and the atonement of Christ on the cross. And we leave from that to the second song, **From The Dead**, which is about the resurrection, 'cause we know that people don't just want to see the fact that He died. **From The Dead** is totally about the resurrection and each song has a radical Bible study

typed right next to the lyrics with the Scriptures that it's based on. From that, we go on to a tune called **The Ascension**, which is Acts. So, in any case, each song is different. Each song is kinda like a thing within itself."

**How do you guys build each other up and do you have regular Bible studies, prayer meetings and general body ministry time?

"Well, basically, I live way up in Hollywood and these guys live down here in Redondo Beach, so we get together as much as we can, which is very rare to be quite frank with you. But we do get a time of prayer before each rehearsal and we all attend regular, you know, I pastor a church up there and these guys all maintain their studies down here."

"We go to Sanctuary South Bay," says Mancaruso, "which is pastored by Bob Beeman. I'm an elder there. We have Bible studies. Larry plays guitar at Mike Bett's study, and we each have different studies."

**How can a reader of Heaven's Metal pray for you?

"To get on their knees, close their eyes and start asking God to help us," suggests Martin. "In our finances, open doors for shows. and ask God to start dealing with these kids, man, and lift the blinders from their eyes."

"Praying for their own friends, peers, and people that they know too," exhorts Martinez.

"When you buy the album, use it as a ministry tool, you know," says Mancaruso. "To minister to your friends. Not just buy it for yourself and selfishly use it just to listen to, which you can do, of course, but use it to minister with, if you can. If you've got friends that are into thrash, man, take it over to them. Buy them an album if they don't have any money."

"You can pray for areas of unity in the band," says Martin. "Of everybody getting along with each other. And we get along real well, but it's just hard ministering and being in a band. It's tough."

**Who is the next band that's going to rise up out of L.A.?

"Deliverance," Farkas immediately states.

"Deliverance," agrees Martinez. "Definitely. You'll dig that. They'll be cranking."

**What are your musical backgrounds?

"My musical background," says Martin, "my musical influence came from a man named Bobby Hill. Bobby Hillbilly is a lumberjack in the back woods of Oklahoma, where I was from. He played a mean chainsaw. I only really got to hear him work just one time when we were down on Red River having a fish fry. Anyway, we needed some wood for the fire and this dude cranked up this chainsaw, man, and it sounded great. As soon as I heard that I go, 'Mar, that's great!'"

"What a bass sound," says Thieme.

"As for me," confesses Farkas, "basically blues music...of any kind."

"I came from pretty much a blues background," says Mancaruso. "We all do. Hard rock, you know."

"We all pretty much grew up about the same time and listened to Zeppelin, Floyd, Yes, Genesis, and Hendrix," says Martinez.

"I was influenced by feedback," says Thieme. "The first time I heard it, I wanted it."

The incredible Vengeance demo, which is a small taste of what the album will be, is still available. Send a money order only for \$6.00 to Roger Martinez at: 8033 Sunset Blvd, #441, Hollywood CA 90046.

Wait till the world of thrash gets ahold of this music! They're gonna freak! Let's all try to buy the album for at least one unsaved thrash headbanger out there and see if we can change their world.

Metal Tracks

Rage Of Angels new album, tentatively titled **Head's Up**, should be due out in November. Guess who's gonna distribute it? Word Records! Before that, they will appear on the **East Coast Metal** album with the song **Reason To Rock**. The other bands on this promising album are: **Apostle**, with **The Sword**; **Second Chance**, with **Liberation From The Blazing Wasteland**; **The Lead**, with **Tunnel Vision**; **Taker (Alright!)**, with their killer ballad **Yesterday, Today and Forever**, and **Living By Faith**, which they used **Second Chance** to help with the background vocals on the chorus; **Believer**, with **The Chosen**; and **Arsenal**, with **Stand Strong (Hail To The King)**, and **The Message Of Love**.

In other R.E.X. news, Trytan is writing songs for their next album, which should be released on cd!

Gary Gladson and Todd Price are now the two guitarists for **Crossforce**.

Kingdom '88, a big Christian festival, is having a band contest. The winner receives a contract to record a single, which **Refuge** will distribute 800 copies of to radio stations. To enter, send a tape, a letter from your pastor, and a photo to: **Kingdom '88**, Box 91, Buffalo NY 14216. Festival dates are August 26th and 27th.

Greg Volz and band went to Istanbul, Turkey. **Billboard Magazine** reports that guitarist, **Paul Brannon**, was electrocuted when his guitar touched a mike stand on the second night of a five night bill. He took 240 volts for nearly eight seconds. He was completely immobile for seven hours! He recovered the next night enough to do the set with his arm in a sling. He had burn holes in his fingers. He could barely move his hands enough to play basic chords. The doctor said if he hadn't had such a strong heart, he'd have been dead.

Delivering Us From Wimpy Music: Deliverance!

This band from Los Angeles is roaring its way into the hearts of thrashers everywhere. Their thrashin' debut on the **California Metal** album with **Attack** has wet everyone's appetite for more Christian thrash. They've just signed with Intense Records, where they'll be label mates with Vengeance. The following interview catches up with Deliverance's lead vocalist, Jimmy Brown, the night before his wedding.

****What's been happening with the band lately?**

"Well, we've just been working. Working and praying, man. All of us are getting married this year. I'm getting married tomorrow. Brian's tying the old knot a month from tomorrow. Chris is getting married in August and Glen, who knows when he's getting married."

****I understand you had some personnel changes.**

"This is pretty much the final one, I guess, because we've already signed the contract with him on it. He's stuck with us. It's Glen Rogers. He was formerly in the band H.E.R.O. Before H.E.R.O., he was the one who started Vengeance. That's who our new lead guitarist is."

****Caesar (Kalinowski, of Intense) told me that Glen wrote some of Vengeance's killer tunes, like *Beheaded*.**

"He wrote the whole demo, all six songs. On their album will be six of his songs."

****Your music is going to be heavy.**

"Yes, it's going to be pretty good. Our writing material is pretty much the same. So it's going to be fun working with them. This new album is going to have one of his songs on it, 'cause we're just going to go and use most of our older tunes and just get them out of the way."

****That's an interesting way to put it: "get them out of the way..."**

"Just throw them out of the way. Everyone's been hearing them the past three years, two years really, so we might as well let them hear it on vinyl and throw out the next album soon."

****What are the songs?**

"Side one will be: **Victory; Blood Of The Covenant; Deliverance; The Call; and Jesus Is God**. Side two is: **Greeting Of Death; Temporary Insanity; No Time; Hold On Tightly; a song called If You Will**. That's a brand new one, it smokes. You'll dig it. We're going to end the whole thing with the title song, **Awake**."

****What kind of lyrical stuff is it?**

"Well, **Victory** just deals with the Christian, the Christian walking in victory. Just a walk in victory in Jesus Christ. You know, we're not defeated. We can live through faith and victory. **Blood Of The Covenant**



Photo by Charles Daniels

is talking to the unsaved, telling them about when Jesus died the cup became the blood of the new covenant that was shed for the remission of sin. **Deliverance**, our title song, is telling what we're about. **The Call** is another outreach song to the unsaved. I think it explains itself, the title--The Call. **Jesus Is God**--that's plain as day. Remember that at the Metal Mardis Gras? It's a real fast one, about 50 seconds long. The one that everybody was going nuts in. **Greetings Of Death**. That deals with the issue of death. I wrote that because I was going through a tremendous time where I was fearing

death. I don't know, I was just, like, having weird dreams and I was thinking I was going to die. I was receiving these trippy phone calls, which I later found out was my ex-girlfriend. But it was like I was going to die, dude. You know, 'You're gonna die!' I was just, like, freaking out.

"I got real sick about a week later, after all this started happening, to the point of death, dude. I'm not lying. I mean, I felt death in my room. I just called out to the Lord and the Lord just gave me peace and told me, 'Look, don't fear death, because I have ordained this, and don't worry

about it. You aren't going to go unless I have a say-so. And if I have say-so, that means it's the best thing. So, that's what's going on for you.' And I go, 'Well, why am I so afraid, Lord?' And He goes, 'Because you're not close to me.' And I go, 'Well, Lord, I thought I was.' The Lord said, 'I want you closer to Me. I want you to draw nearer to Me. I want Me to become real in your life.' Because, at that time, I started...I got so involved with wanting to do things for God that I forgot to pray, and I didn't have time for Him. Because I was so involved doing things for Him, I didn't do it with Him. And the Lord really convicted me and gave me that experience about the greeting of death. That I'm not to fear it, that I'm supposed to greet it with joy, because Jesus--what did Paul say? 'To live is Christ, but to die is gain.'

"That's what the song deals with. It was something I went through. A lot of people don't enjoy that song out here, unless they're Slayer addicts, because it's a total Slayer-type song. I sing real gritty and do real high screams and stuff.

"My vocals have gotten a lot more rough now. That's just due to, you know, you can't be all, 'Yaaaa! Yah!' with this 'Dunt-dunt-dunt-dunt' stuff (I hope you appreciate the sound-effects.--ed). You can't be that way. My vocals go in it's place. I'll never sing like Roger from Vengeance.

"Our music is just really heavy and thrashy."

"**Temporary Insanity** deals with the issue of suicide. **No Time** is about having no time for God. I'm getting calls from all over the United States, Canada, France, and all other places, telling me how much that song convicts people and makes them turn toward the Lord. I'm really happy about that. The Lord gave me some lyrics and I wrote them down. It's a hairball poem. It says:

I've worked through the day, now I don't have time to speak/ unto friends or to speak Lord, to You. There's only one thing on my mind. That's to please myself, which I have no time to do. There's no time. There's no time. That's my constant cry. No time to help those in need. At last it was time to die, to die.

At last before the Lord I came. I stood with downcast eyes. He held a book in His hand. It was the book of life. He opened up His book and said, 'Your name I cannot find. I was once going to write it down, but I couldn't find the time.'

"That's a pretty hairball tune."

**No kidding.

"It's a heavy song, to go with an equally heavy message. The song's real heavy, like **Seek And Destroy** by Metallica. It's real raunchy like that. So, you'll dig it. It's a good tune.

"**Hold On Tightly** was the third song I ever wrote as a Christian. I was in prayer one day before the Lord and He just really spoke to me, saying, 'I want you to write these things down.' I was really depressed at the time. I don't know why, and the Lord gave me these words. It was just Him talking to me. That's all the song is, just the Lord talking to me. A couple verses.

"**If You Will** is another outreach to the secular person. It's called, **Choose Him If You Will**, but basically we just called it **If You Will**. That's my newest song. It's bad. The Slayer fans will dig that.

"The last song is **Awake**, which deals with hell. The lyrics to that are pretty hairy too. We put that on our demo and it's like we've gotten so many comments to that too. A lot of people get mad at us, because we've dealt with something that can never happen. But we're saying, 'If it could happen, this is the way it would be done.' It's a person that got to come back from hell and tell people what it was about. So, you're hearing it from this man's perspective, who's in hell. Here's the lyrics:

A million screams in dreaded harmony/ the shrieks of pain are never ending. Thousands are slaughtered, but will never die. Damnation forever, but to you, through pain, we cry. Awake!

I cry out to God Almighty/ please let me warn people of this place. So many people, they're so deceived/ they won't believe/ then I heard the voice of one say/ 'I am a messenger, and your plea has been granted. You must leave us once/ and go back to your planet. Your time is limited/ so go at once to those who you're going to warn of your new God-forsaken home.'

Don't play games with God. This hell is real. Don't ignore the preacher/ when he says the thief cometh to steal. Don't be fooled. This world ain't worth damnation's fee/ or come with the torment, the fiery pit with me.

"So, that's another song. It's like, 12 minutes long."

**Really? Wow! A 12-minute Deliverance song.

"A lot of our songs are like, becoming really long, so it's crazy."

**It seems like thrash or just real heavy, heavy music is just the perfect music for judgment lyrics.

"Well, I guess that's the way it's been directed. All the secular trash deals with all that crap: 'You're going to burn--you're a dog--you're not worth anything.' And that's why. I guess the Lord's really directing our lyrics more towards that.

"I know it's not of God.

Moshing isn't of God.

I don't think headbanging is of God, but I don't think it's against God either."

"The front cover of the album is called 'A View Into The Lake Of Fire.' It's a picture of the guy that the song **Awake** is about. He's going to be coming off of a bed, and his bed is on fire. There's like worms and maggots and stuff coming out of it. And his bed's on fire, but you're not going to be able to tell. It's not burning; it's just on fire. Because that's the way hell is going to be. Half of his flesh is melting and half is already there. And he's burning and he's going to be screaming at the top of his lungs. Right under his mouth it's going to say, 'Awake.'

"An artist is doing that right now. Pretty hairy. On the back it's going to have a picture of a bunch of Metallica records and Slayer records. We took all of our stuff and we smashed it all and took a picture of it. That's what the back cover is going to be. All these Slayer, Megadeth, and Metallica records and tapes all thrashed."

**It makes a major statement there.

"Yeah, big time."

**What are your views on moshing?

"Well, when I first got involved in thrash, moshing was a slow kind of thing, with everybody walking in a circle, like during the slow part of a song: 'Du-du dah, du-du dah,' you know? Everybody just marching in a circle. That was mosh to me; and slamming was everybody thrashing into each other and bashing their heads out and stuff, you know. I went to an M.O.D. concert, and the way they were moshing is right. But, I guess everybody's taking moshing as hardcore slamming, so I guess that's what it's become.

"I don't know. At first I didn't really think it was that ungodly. I just thought it was dorky. That's why I said, 'Mosh it up baby,' on **Attack**, and I used to always say, 'Mosh it up,' at the concerts and

stuff. But, lately I've been seeing the effects of it. And we've played a lot of shows out here in the big thrash scene out here in East L.A., and it's like, man, I've seen kids after concerts all bloody and beat up and thrashed. And it hurts, you know?

"I don't want to be one who is causing this, and we are now taking bodyguards with us. We've had bodyguards with us. They're starting to break it up when it happens, or keep it calm. You know, if the kids want to do it, well, you know, we want to let them do what they want to do. But keep it calm and keep it pretty calm, so nobody's getting hurt, you know. So we have these big, gigantic bodyguards, who are roadies as well. They're helping out in that, because it's a pretty hairy subject to deal with. I know it's not of God, you know. Moshing isn't of God. And I know something somebody will say in their mind, 'Well, if it's not of God, why do you allow it?' Well, you know, I personally don't think headbanging is of God, but I don't think it's against God either. You know, I don't think God headbangs. A lot of us get this misconception of God being this great celestial headbanger. And He's not. He's God. He's holy and He's righteous. And He's allowing all this to go on for His glory, so we can win some souls. Like Paul said, 'So I can win some.' And also because He knows these kids need some pleasure. But, it's hard to say. I don't know if this is right or not. That's pretty much where I stand right now. We're doing our best to take care of people and make sure people don't get hurt. But I don't know how other bands are handling it. There's two other thrash bands out here now and one of them plays, I'll leave them nameless, and they, like, encourage it. They're just like, 'Come on. I don't see you guys going around enough.' They laugh when this kid bangs his head on the stage and he's bleeding. The guitarists look at each other and go, 'Ha, ha.' That hurt. Here my Christian brothers are out there tearing it up, and they laugh, 'cause some kid is getting hurt. That's kind of...I don't know if there is a spirit involved there...it's a heavy subject and I've been praying about it lately. We haven't been gigging as much lately. So we've just kind of been praying and asking God to direct us. Especially the music we're doing right now. We've never been the gigantic, real super fast band. People labeled us 'Faster For The Master,' because we had a couple fast songs. But we've been more Metallica-ish. If you listen to Metallica, they're not fast, they're just real heavy. That's pretty much where we are. Our music is just really heavy and thrashy. Have you heard **Greetings Of Death**? That's us. We're real heavy and real thrashy. **California Metal** is a real understatement of what we are. A

lot of people listen to that. I hate that album. I hate the way the two songs turned out. That's just not us to me. But again, with this thrashing stuff, I don't know. Right now I'm really undecided on it, because I've seen a lot of kids get hurt. If we're going to have to throw bodyguards out there and stuff, it's going to make me think, 'Is this even worth it? To let the kids have fun?'

"I think the thing that's really disturbed me mostly, is I went to a Fenders show out here, that's just like the big thrash scene out here, and kids were diving off the beams that stretch across the building and cracking their heads open. There's ambulances rushing back and forth from the hospital to Fenders, everytime there's a thrash show. That's bunk, man. When we play there, I don't want people to thrash, because it's going to get that hairball...Our two big bodyguards aren't going to stop those little kids from diving off the beams. Us as Christian thrash bands, we've got to be careful, because this is a dangerous area where we're getting into. And we've got to know where God has called us. See, right now the big thing is everybody wants to start a thrash band.

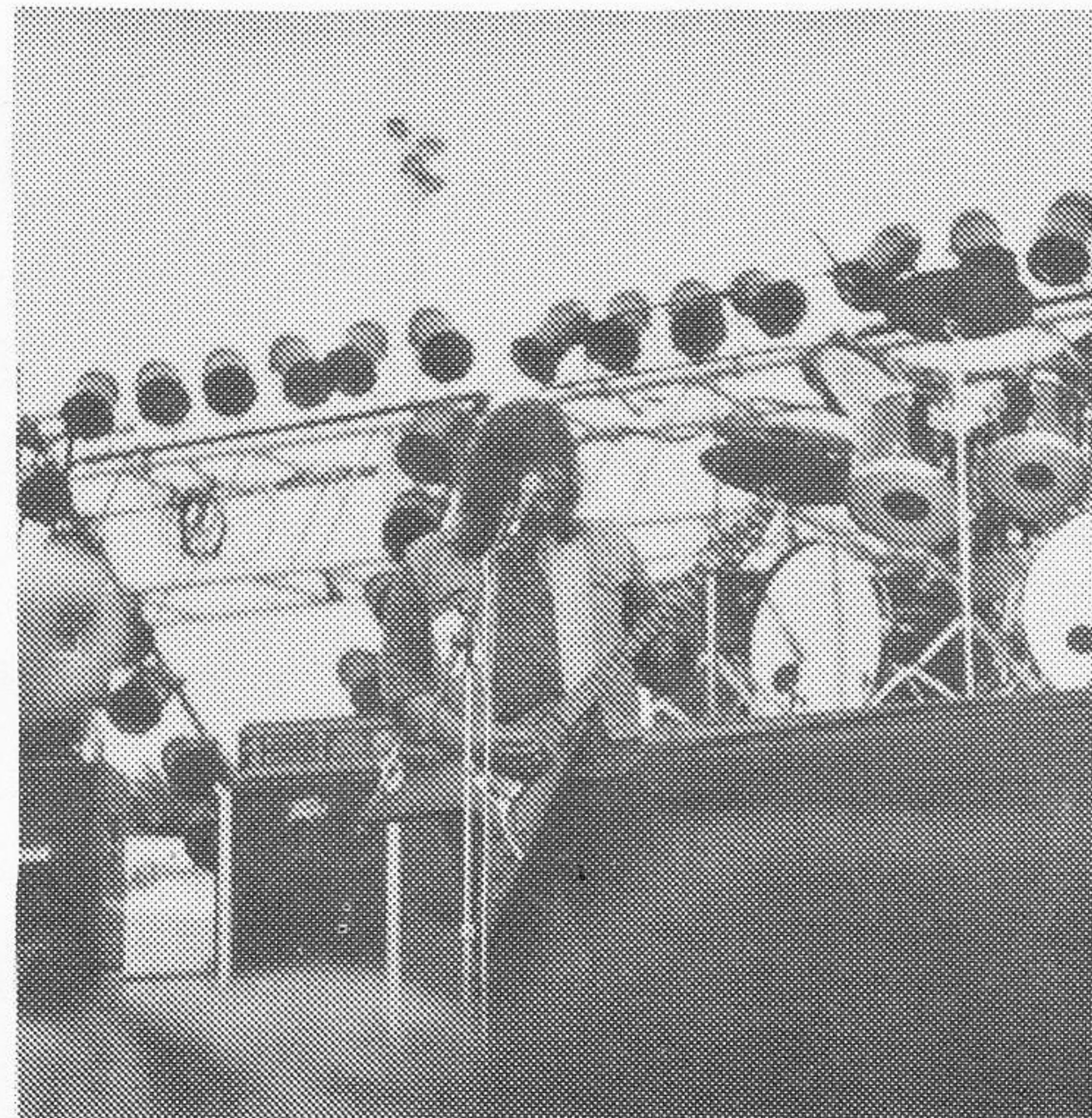
"Deliverance and Vengeance came out and, 'boom,' all these thrash bands are wanting to start. I'm not saying we're the raddest or anything, but you kind of get my drift. But, we were pretty much the first at what we were doing, at least out here in California. I don't know about anywhere else. But now there's all these other thrash bands and a lot of kids are getting involved with this. This is even heavier than the Stryper mode, you know, because we're dealing with the dark, real dark side of metal. It's a heavy thing to deal with; that's why you've got to stay in prayer and you've got to be in the Word and stuff, and know when it's right and when it's wrong, and have the Lord discern--you've got to discern everything through the Lord, you know."

**I really appreciate your heart and honesty on that.

"Thank you. That's the problem, you know. I don't like to lie in interviews. You know, 'Hey! I'm a thrasher, so I like to thrash!' I don't do that, but...that's what I feel, and I'm going to tell you. Maybe that's not how the whole band feels, you know. Because we really love playing the fast stuff, but that's when the kids get nutso. Plus I like to pray before I start writing songs. The Lord's really directing me towards the real heavy stuff. It sounds kind of funny, 'Oh yeah, God's directing me to write heavy, crunchy stuff,' but you know. I think you know where I'm coming from."

**How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for you?

"Pray that the Lord will always



keep us bold and that we would never, never wimp out. Never compromise His message that He has given us to take to this world."

**I bet a lot of kids and readers of this magazine, they look at you probably thinking, "Oh, this guy is just like, 'Mr. Bold.' He probably approaches everybody like, 'Jesus is God!'"

"They have a big misconception of what we are."

**So what are you really like?

"Well, we're just like you. There's nothing different about us. I mean, we all have fears, we all have fears of being rejected. We aren't all the time going around screaming that, 'Jesus loves you.' Sometimes we can be very rude and not tell anybody when they really need it, and we know they need it. We go through the same trials and everything that everybody else goes through."

**Yeah, I just thought of that, because I imagine a lot of people realize that with Stryper, but with these thrash bands they get another misconception that they're just always tough and real bold.

"We're just like you.
We all have fears of
being rejected."

"Plus, we don't portray that image on stage. We go out there and we're who we are. We don't care if people like the way we look or not. Lately we've been bringing that old Iron Maiden look back. Black denim, black leather jackets and just nice shirts. What I mean by nice is alright looking, just kind of a regular shirt. I'm getting sick of this thrash look, where everybody has holes in their knees and all this stupidity, you know. So we're just bringing back that old look, because everybody kind of just, like, threw it away as soon as glam

came in. But we're going to kind of bring that back, just wear one studded belt and nice black jeans and leather jackets and stuff."

**Is there anything else you'd like to wrap up or say?

"Keep us in prayer. Pray for us right now financially. We're not doing too hot."

There's Deliverance. Wanna buy one of their t-shirts? "You'll dig the art work," says Jimmy. "They're four-color t-shirts. If you're a real thrasher and want to compete with the Motorhead and Corrosion Of Conformity shirts, then this is the shirt to buy. They have our mascot on the front, Homer, our reaper, and he's on the pointing at you and it says 'It is appointed once for man to die, but after this the judgment.'" Send \$13 to Deliverance at 1525 Aviation Blvd, Suite B-279, Redondo Beach CA 90278.



One Bad Pig is: Myke Connell on drums; Kosher on vocals; Paul Q-Pek on guitar; and Streak Wheeler on bass. Photo by Lynn Miller.

Thrashing Against Sin With One Bad Pig

Denny's is definitely the nation's after-hours rock and roll hangout, and that's where the following One Bad Pig interview took place.

**How did you not get the name "One Bad Pig?"

"It was not a revelation from God," admits Kosher.

"It was not seeing a bunch of pigs on a farm acting weird and saying, 'Oooh, that's one bad pig,'" says Paul. "It was not that."

"We did not pray and fast for days and weeks on end in order to find the most godly, most meaningful, most symbolic and representative name that we could possibly conjure up," says Kosher.

"We didn't do that," admits Paul.

"It's not found in any scripture," says Myke.

"We didn't call up Sandi Patti and ask her for suggestions," says Paul.

"It has nothing to do with the Gerasene demoniac," states Kosher.

"The what?" asks Paul.

"The Gerasene demoniac," answers Kosher. "You know, Jesus cast the demons out of the guy into the swine into the sea."

"We're thinking of calling one of our albums 'Over The Cliff,'" says Paul.

"At least a song," adds Myke.

"Or at least a t-shirt," says Paul.

**Why don't you all, in harmony, give a brief history of One Bad Pig, because a lot of people who don't live in Austin don't know what's been going on. A lot of people don't even know who One Bad Pig is.

"He wants it in harmony," says Myke as he starts humming.

Paul looks at Myke, then begins. "One Bad Pig started..."

"As a figment of our imaginations," interjects Kosher.

"As a Fig Newton of our imaginations," adds Paul. "One Bad Pig started Labor Day 1985 as a joke. At that time the original members were myself on guitar; our lead vocalist on lead vocals, suprisingly enough; our drummer was a guy named Phillip Owens, who now plays for the Q-Pek Band; and our bass player was Kevin Phelan, who is on the album, which was 'A Christian Banned.' After a couple of gigs, we got a new drummer whose name is Jon Taylor, and he is on the album, which was recorded in the spring of '86. Then we played Cornerstone in the summer of '86. During this time, we played numerous gigs at various clubs, churches, youth groups, secular clubs, Houston, things like that."

"Teen clubs, frat parties, opening for Undercover," adds Carey.

"Our second gig was opening for Undercover," says Paul. "After we came back from Cornerstone, we did a few more gigs, like Labor Day for the second year. After that, our bass player decided to leave the band and we got a new bass player--Streak Wheeler. He's an excellent brother in the Lord, active in ministry and preaching in the Assemblies Of God. He's a terrible bass player, but he's a neat guy--I like him, so he's in the band (They're joking, I think.--ed)."

The next year almost saw the Pig signed to Unclean Records, a big

secular hardcore label. They were going to be signed, but the label's distributor read their lyrics and refused to distribute their product because of lyrical content. The label owner had his hands tied, so he couldn't sign 'em.

"Throughout the next year, we opened for Bloodgood twice: in Austin once and in Dallas once. We played several times in Dallas, Houston, and Austin in different colleges, clubs, and Christian events, things like that. Our album did really well. We didn't have any distribution on it, no paid promotion for it whatsoever at all, anything. We managed to sell about 1,000 albums, which is all we printed up. We sold 'em all through the mail and at our concerts, basically. Right now, we've pressed up cassettes of the album and they're available through the mail. A couple of months ago, our drummer, Jon, who was on the album, decided to leave the band and is moving to Massahusetts. Why? I don't know. Maybe he'll start a new band called One Bad Yankee. That's a joke (various and sundry forced laughter from those at the table). Then, after we tried out numerous drummers...no, just kidding."

"What was that Peart fellow that auditioned?" asks Kosher.

**Neil?

"Nah, we rejected him," says Paul. "He just wasn't our style."

At this point the interview was interrupted by a Denny's waiter.

**Have you ever heard of One Bad Pig?

"I'm not even gonna touch that," replied the waiter.

"Then we tried out a drummer from San Antonio," continues Paul, "who used to play in a band called TNK, which I'm sure your readers have heard about. He is great."

"TNK tapes will soon be available again," interjects Myke.

"No ads for TNK," says Paul. "He plays double bass like you wouldn't believe. We still don't believe it. He tells us he plays good, but we still don't believe it. He's a good addition to the band. He's attending Bible college in San Antonio right now, and playing drums for One Bad Pig."

**Streak, you stepped in and replaced Kevin Phelan, how does that feel?

"I have respect for Kevin," says Streak. "I don't know if I've matched his performance or anything like that, but it's what the Lord wants as far as this ministry goes and that's what concerns me."

**Myke, how does it feel to be in One Bad Pig now?

"Exhausting," says Myke. "Being in One Bad Pig is definitely a new experience to me, since all the bands I've played with in the past have been more towards the Stryper sound, commercial metal, that type of stuff. So, the music is new to me, but in a good way. I enjoy it, it's a challenge. It's building up great leg muscles, all that stuff."

"King of the double bass," announces Paul, "Myke Connell. Remember that name. Myke Connell of One Bad Pig, winner of the 1989 Reader's Poll for Heaven's Metal."

"For those of you who are somewhat familiar with One Bad Pig and the song "6"," says Kosher, "just wait till you hear it on double bass."

**When can they do that?

"They can catch us on our next national tour, opening up for Amy Grant," reports Paul.

**What's it like opening for a metal band like Bloodgood?

"At different times, it's different ways," says Streak. "In Austin, it was a little more relaxed. We didn't have the pressure of being the main band, but we realized we had a responsibility to prep the people's attitudes towards listening. And we opened in Dallas and got there 10 minutes beforehand. I still don't know what it was like--my mind never recovered."

**I want to mention that One Bad Pig is one of the most entertaining bands around. Kosher, from my perspective, you do a great job. You've made the change from the rock and roll enthusiast to rock and roll performer. How did that happen? How did it feel actually playing in a band, being a performer and doing what you do now?

"High anxiety," admits Kosher.

"How many bands have you been in before One Bad Pig?" asks Paul.

"Zero," answers Kosher. "My first and last band, most likely. And most likely refers more to the last than the first."

"They say the first shall be last," says Paul. "This may be it."

"I was very nervous to do so," continues Kosher. "It was fun to do so. As Paul said, it initially was a joke, so it wasn't that big of a deal. I knew that I was no singer, so it wasn't too much to ask to do as a joke--it might be even all the more funny for one to be in that role. It wasn't like: 'Well, I'm a singer, so let's do it.' It was more like: 'Well, I'm not a singer, that makes it even better, so let's do it.'"

"So why are you in One Bad Pig?" asks Paul as he takes over the interview.

"To preach," replies Kosher.

"We have this soapbox we take Kosher around on," says Myke. "You mean you're not looking for fame and fortune in the Christian punk music industry?" asks Paul.

"I thought the answer to that was self-evident," retorts Kosher.

"So, you're not in it for any artistic expression?" asks Paul.

"Absolutely none," responds Kosher.

"That's good," says Paul, "because there are many people who think our artistic expression is nil."

"At best," adds Kosher. "To get the message of Jesus out to a group in particular who might be receptive to hearing it through our method of communication, which is pseudo-punk music. Thrash."

"It has nothing to do with the Gerasene demoniac."

"We play disco," says Paul, "but we play it very fast."

"We also play square dance," says Kosher, "but we play it very fast."

"Dis go here, dis go there," says Paul.

"We also play death core," says Kosher, "but we play it very slow."

**Who is your audience? You've played in secular clubs, you've played a lot of Christian gigs, your album went out to mostly Christians. Who is your audience and why?

"Our audience is basically whoever will listen," says Kosher. "Our original audience was a one time group of Christian local music festival goers, but even before we played that first concert, in the preparations for it in fact...because of some street witnessing many of us had been involved in with the hardcore scene in Austin, we saw that we could reach out to this hardcore scene that we had been street witnessing to. They were probably the original audience as a serious band. However, we found that there is an appetite within Christian music for whatever is new, different or radical. We definitely fit all those criteria. And so we thought, 'Well, if these people insist on hearing us and want to listen, we'll

be glad to oblige them. Maybe we can share a message with them that will make them pause, make them take a step back and consider what their heart is really like towards God, towards ministry, toward their priorities in life, including that place that Christian music plays. So our audience now is whoever will listen: a mixture of secular and Christian--whoever is willing to listen to the raucous sounds of One Bad Pig."

"I think the Pig's appeal can be compared to Stryper," boasts Paul, "not in that it's the same people, but it's the same concept."

"Not the same people," says Kosher, "but the same kind of dollar figures."

"I mean," says Paul, "our latest album basically went platinum. Everyone knows this. Of course you've all seen our videos on MTV in between Peter Gabriel and Michael Jackson. Anyway, Stryper obviously has a huge secular appeal. They're on a secular label, they play 'em on MTV, tons of non-Christians come to their concerts, tons of non-Christians buy their albums. So, they have a large non-Christian audience. They also have a huge Christian audience. Of course, our appeal is a lot smaller appeal than that. We're obviously a local, regional type of band, not on the same level as they are, but it's the same type of idea. In other words, there are both Christians and non-Christians interested in the band and we feel comfortable playing in a church or in a club. Our lyrics are the same, our songs are the same--very, very up-front lyrics."

**Paul, have you ever gotten flack for wearing a priest's collar?

"One time," replies Paul. "At the second Labor Day Music Festival in Austin. I was walking outside and some guy was walking by me and he was an older Mexican-American type gentleman. I believe he was from a Catholic background. I had the priest's collar on, earrings on, eyeliner, things like this. And he basically didn't really say anything specific, he just kind of said in passing, 'I can't believe they're wearing that. It's terrible, blah, blah...' Basically, the reason I wear it is for fun. If anybody needs an explanation, the Bible says that we're all kings and priests in Christ Jesus and we're called into a role as ministers of the Gospel, as priests. So there you go."

**This interview is going to appear in the "Need For Speed" issue. How does One Bad Pig fit in that genre?

"We fit somewhere in between Vengeance and Sandi Patti," says Paul. "People who are familiar with our old album, **A Christian Banned**, know that we can be diverse or wide in our style of music. Like **Make Me Burn** is practically a ballad. With the right arrangement, Steve Green could practically do it. We've always said that there are no musical rules in Pig. No rules. If

we want to do something that's totally weird, that wouldn't be considered thrash at all, we'll do it--just for the fun of it. Most of our stuff, however, is speedy, thrash-type music. We enjoy that. We've been labeled as a punk band, but so much of our stuff is not punk-type sounding, that we just don't know really what to call it, so we call it 'Pig music.' We play pig music."

"We're not so much thrash or speed," says Kosher. "We don't have a bunch of songs where we constantly work on seeing how fast we can do it, trimming time off its performance or anything like that. We've got a lot of fast songs, but our purpose has never been 'let's see how fast we can play this time,' or 'let's see how many words we can cram into the shortest amount of time.' It's never been a goal or a vision of the band. The vision of the band is to communicate through thrashy, somewhat creative, somewhat different music, the message of Jesus."

"One of the main reasons that we chose thrash music," says Paul, "besides the name of the band--which was chosen before the band got together, which kind of lent itself to a thrash type of sound--was our lead singer, Kosher, who was in essence not really a singer at all. So the best genre for his type of voice was thrash. I mean, you take the lead singer of Vengeance, Roger. I just can't see him doing a duet with Michael W. Smith, although it would be interesting. Obviously, his voice is more suited to speed-metal thrash, punk, whatever you want to call it. So, that's one of the reasons also, because of Kosher's voice."

**How did you devise the theatrics you do on stage, like when you're on the ground, Kosher, and stuff like that?

"Part of it is simply part of the genre," says Kosher. "In other words, you go to the hardcore show, what do you see? Does the singer and others act? Are they thrashing in the audience? You know, what are they doing with their bodies? This kind of thing is part of it. It's a very demonstrative, passionate kind of music and often times the singer's posture and movements will mirror the despair, joy, passion, or the disgust or vehemence of what the song is talking about."

"Vehemence: isn't that a new group?" jokes Paul.

"Also," continues Kosher, "along those lines we make an effort to dramatize some of the songs. Sometimes I end up on the ground in that fashion, jumping, leaping, crying, or laughing."

**It's really sincere with all the theatrics and stuff you put on. Is it real?

"Uh-huh," says Kosher. "If I'm doing something dramatic, for example: '6". The lyrics to '6' are sort of a paraphrase to Isaiah 6 and relating Isaiah's experience of

conversion before the Lord as he had a vision of the Lord in His glory. It's a story of cleansing and a story of commissioning and, as we go through the song, I try to portray what's happening in Isaiah's life. But, more than that, I try to apply it to my life, that it represents something very real that's occurred in me. Each time I do it, I try to give authentic meaning and emotion to what's being said--not just do a song about Isaiah, but to take Isaiah's place before God and portray that as effectively as I can."

**So does that actually turn itself around to be legitimate communication with the Lord and yourself?

"At times it does. Certain sets, certain songs, certain renditions more than others, but yeah it does. Some of the songs that we have that are prayers. I'll very consciously in concert or practice try to direct them to the Lord and not just be concerned about performance, but be really concerned about addressing the Lord. I think that real spiritual power can be had in that. We believe in the words that we

sing, and if they're directed towards God, we'll sing them towards God and believe that He'll honor that. We believe that He hears our prayers and our requests in song and that He'll answer that, even in the context of a concert as we ask the Spirit to blow in our lives and to use us, or as we ask Him to make us burn with His power and His love."

**You spoke earlier about the movements and stuff that go on at those kinds of shows. What do you think about moshing or slam-dancing? I know at Cornerstone '86 you said something like, "Why don't you guys stop thrashing against each other and thrash against the devil?" How do you guys feel about it?

"There's two kinds of slamming, or moshing that goes on," says Kosher. "One is like a couple of 12 year old boys wrestling on the living room floor in front of the tv. The other kind is sometimes when the flesh or sometimes even the spirit of hate or violence will be evident in a show. People are intentionally hurting others and truly out of control. It's actually three things: rowdy, good-natured good times; expression of feelings inside; and sometimes,



Photo By Curtis Tarpley

in a negative context, something very ungodly; and I've seen all three of those things and I've experienced it. Most of the time, rowdiness is a lot of it."

"Usually, they're just having a good time for the fun of thrashing, or slam-dancing, or whatever you want to call it," says Paul. "With the incidence at Cornerstone, what happened was we were playing in a small building that was packed. There was a group of about 50 or 60 people in the center of everybody that was starting to thrash around, slam-dancing. There were a lot of people there that didn't want to slam-dance and were kind of getting mad at that, so they told us from the audience. They said, 'Hey, these guys are hurting us, running into us, and we don't want 'em to do that.' So that's why Kosher said, 'Settle down.' If it gets violent or anything, or somebody gets hurt, Kosher'll say something from the stage. But usually, that doesn't happen. Usually, it's all good-natured, whatever. Some of our shows, people don't slam at all, some of 'em it's just a few that do and the others are just kind of watching. So, usually no one gets hurt, it's all in good fun."

"A Christian audience is much different," says Kosher, "or one that's predominantly Christian. For them, they know nothing of a rowdy good time, or self-expression, that has no place in their concern of slamming. They don't understand that, or consider that as legitimate and so it's very offensive to them, because all they associate it with is violence and hatred and rebellion. It's not necessarily that all the time, in fact, much of the time. Also, many of the people who've become involved in a Christian-type setting kind of don't know what to do or don't know how to protect themselves, don't know how to protect others as they're slamming. It's like throwing somebody, who likes to drive his car fast on backroads, into the middle of the Indy 500 or something. It would be real dangerous for the other drivers. So, that's a concern. And it's real offensive to a lot of people who don't agree with it and that kind of thing. Rather than cause division and strife at Christian concerts, we prefer to keep as much argument, dissension, and division and controversy from happening as possible. I mean, not that we're afraid of that, we don't feel that it benefits what the Lord is trying to do to engender that or to nurture that. In a hardcore show, where people kind of know what they're doing and where we don't see something bad happening spiritually and they're on their own kind of ground, it's a lot different type of thing."

"We don't encourage it either," says Myke. "We don't say, 'Let's slam,' or encourage it in any way, but it's associated with the music and people just do it. I've seen

the guys are pretty good about controlling it, making sure no one gets hurt. I think we're really concerned about the safety of those kids."

"I think a lot of times," says Kosher, "it's like, 'Hey, before I was saved, I used to mosh,' or 'I still do it because that's cool.' Or, maybe you're coming from the other direction and you're a Christian and you're getting into this cool new radical music and you want to be just like the 'real thrashers,' or the 'real skins,' just like this or that, and so you want to do it too, and want to do it just like everybody else. You get into a real problem here with motives and reasoning. What does this music mean to you. How does it relate to your position with the Lord. It's not only slamming, it's 'Why is your hair the length it is? Why are your jeans torn? Why do you like this type of music to begin with?' Those are questions that people need to ask themselves and be sure of and to examine their hearts and their motives and make sure they're pure and right with God."

**What's in the future for One Bad Pig? What about some West Coast tour that was reported by some editor of a heavy metal magazine?

"That was weird," says Paul. "I don't know where that came from, but it's totally untrue. We would love to do that, just like we would love to play Europe, but we don't have any plans to do that any time in the near future."

"We feel comfortable playing in a church or a club."

"This is something that just kind of happened out of the blue: Billy Smiley, who is in Whiteheart and who writes songs that Sandi Patti and other people have recorded, and used to play for the Bill Gaither Trio, is interested in producing One Bad Pig. Obviously, it's got to be God, because it's not our talent as a band."

The Pig was in Nashville from June 8th to the 12th, where they recorded six songs in Warner Brothers Studio. The tape is hot, but it's a "One New Pig," I tell ya. This stuff is real metal. Smiley really changed Paul's guitar sound. Gone is the empty-room echo sound that made the Pig sound punk; this stuff has a thud, crunch and fullness that's all metal, except, of course, for Kosher's vocals. Even that, at times, sounds metallish. It's definitely something Heaven's Metal readers would love. Smiley's gonna be shopping the tape around, so maybe within the next year we'll hear a new One Bad Pig record (Imagine the Pig on compact disc.).

"We're praying hard for God's will to be done and," says Paul, "if it's God's will not for us to be signed, then that's fine. The whole idea behind Pig--because we started out as a joke and not really what you'd call an artistic musical adventure, it's more for the ministry--has just been a day by day with the Lord and never looking too far ahead in the future, because we don't know what tomorrow brings. We don't know what the future's gonna hold for us as a band, or as individuals. We don't want to go ahead of God, or make plans that are totally out of what He wants to do and I feel that His timing is perfect. He's brought along this thing totally out of the blue. We're not counting our chickens before they hatch, or totally thinking that we're gonna be signed to a label or something, but we're looking forward to good things. This is an unbelievable opportunity to be able to work with Billy in this way."

"We have hopes for it and we'd like to see a label thing come up," says Kosher, "but if it doesn't, we may very well try to put out something custom again. That was our plan before Billy began to show interest."

"We were planning, as reported in your magazine a couple months ago, on a summer release with 15 songs," says Paul. "We told Billy that and he said, 'No, don't do that. Come on out to Nashville and we'll record something and I'll shop it around.'"

"I encourage all the Heaven's Metal readers to pray for One Bad Pig. We're concerned with doing God's will, first and foremost. We'd like to feed our families though, too. If God's will is to have us on a label so we'd be able to do that; to reach more people; to possibly tour nationwide and meet some of these people that have been supporting us for the last couple of years, that we've never gotten to see; to be able to work with other Christian musicians and people in that ministry; would be just great. I encourage 'em to pray for us, that God's will would be done. He's really right now granting us some of the desires of our heart, which is a neat thing. That's a promise in God's Word and it's just a neat thing to see. It feels like one big blessing, you know, very unexpected, real surprising that this came about. We're very thankful."

**Do you have fun on stage Kosher?

"Yeah. It's hard work sometimes, but it's often fun; sometimes challenging; sometimes embarrassing; sometimes there's noticeable spiritual warfare; sometimes there's girls hanging on to your legs as you try to walk around the floor of the club; or people spitting beer in your face, but that can be fun too."

As a parting gesture, Kosher reminds us, "This is an election year. We are on, indefinitely, without schedule or itinerary, the 'Presidential Pig Tour: Election '88.'"

Cont'd



Dear Heaven's Metal Reader,

It is a delight for me to write you once again.

In the burgeoning world of Christian rock and metal, it is the eclectic few that emerge as those forces to contend with. Many bands are content enough to dwell in the complacency of well-traversed musical styles, neglecting out of shortsightedness or fear those opportunities before them that encourage innovation, artistry, and the task of forging new direction. Not so for the band you will become acquainted with here; they are known simply as **EZRA**.

Hailing--and rather loudly at that--from the "Mile High" city of Denver, Colorado, the gateway to the majestic and formidable Rocky Mountains, EZRA is rapidly gaining a loyal following of fans that thrill to the talent and ferocity of this explosive foursome.

"We're not thrash," Bibi explains, "we're really intense music for God." "Really intense" is right! I recall the first time I witnessed EZRA live, late last fall as they heated up the crowd and set a blistering pace for the well-known Washington warriors, Bloodgood! I was shocked to later discover that this concert was EZRA's debut live performance; I had seen many more well-established acts that would have paled in comparison to this thundering quartet. It helps to understand this fact when more of the band's background is revealed. First of all EZRA is an experienced and talented band. There are no kids picking up their guitar here for the first time and wondering how to strike an "R" chord for "rock." Tim Morrow is also an accomplished guitarist in his own right, despite the fact that he plays bass for EZRA. "I've pretty much grown up in the music scene," he explains, "I feel like I've been around enough to recognize something good when I see it; I see that in EZRA." You readers who have followed closely the Christian Metal scene will recognize Tim's name in connection with the name of BRIDE and the now disbanded ARMADA (the one from Kentucky). Bibi McGill is for all practical purposes the founder of EZRA. Working now for two years to see EZRA arrive at its present lineup, she feels very satisfied with the quality and attitude of the members involved. "We have a lot of different musical tastes," she explains. "I'm more into the likes

TIM MORROW ■ BASS, VOCAL,
BIBI MCGILL ■ L. GUITAR,
DALE COX ■ L. & R. GUITAR,
KENT VERBAL ■ DRUMS,



of TESTAMENT, DIO and even IRON MAIDEN. Kent came from a very complicated jazz background, and he has had to learn the techniques of metal. Dale is our thrasher, and he's influenced by such bands as METALLICA, MEGADETH, and SLAYER. Tim is into bands like STRYPER, QUEENSRYCHE, and QUEEN, more diversified, experimental, and unpredictable styles." It is impressive to further comprehend the talent of EZRA. Bibi McGill is an excellent guitarist, holding a degree in guitar performance with an emphasis in song-writing and arranging. Kent Verbal is also a "graduate", and recently showcased EZRA live at Colorado Christian College in Denver upon completion of his degree in music performance. Kent, I must confess, is one of the most flamboyant and energetic drummers I have seen in a long time. He falls, in my opinion, into the high-standards drummers seen in the leagues of Robert Sweet and of Mark Welling.

Having had the chance to hear EZRA play several times, I conclude that

"thrash" is not in itself the most accurate description of their sound. Though their speed is frantic at times, and the double-guitar attack pelts along at an extravaganza-pace, they blend into this mind-warp speed a style all of their own. "Mosh" ("Munch On Satan's Head??") is the term they've coined, and they play it with ardent relish. Dale and Bibi together work in some of the best dual-guitar harmonies I've heard since STRYPER, crystal-clear in performance and confidence. No ordinary bass lines for Tim either; he wields his bass like a weapon on which he is required to perform from one end to the other. It is refreshing to see the standards of their musical performance cross over into their lyrics as well...intelligent, well-planned, and convicting. The opening verse from their monster-rocker "The Choice" reads: "Standing before you is heaven, or the desolate darkness of hell/ The rulers of both of these kingdoms know you very well/ There is a battle within you, today you must choose who to serve/ The Lord God Almighty or satan the god of this world."



Pig Cont'd

If you'd like to get some of the "Election '88" Pig t-shirts, send \$12; "A Christian Banned" cassettes, send \$6 to: One Bad Pig, PO Box 3054, Austin TX 78764.

Speaking of music and all, EZRA just recently emerged from the studio after an exhausting recording of their new demo, "The Choice." It will feature five songs on it and will be available for only \$5.00. Included on this demo will be the title track, a frenzied, impassioned instrumental called "The Mosh," and



a very moving song called "The Crucifixion" which passionately portrays the death of Christ on the cross, and describes how much more He did for us than just die for the price of sin. "The Crucifixion" also features some interesting harmonies, and some classically-influenced acoustic work on guitar, the latter here of which will increasingly become a part of EZRA's feature format musically. The sound and mix is of high-quality as far as demos go, and should all plans conclude as they are presently preceeding, the tape will feature a color-reproduced printing of the cover. It will have their logo emblazoned across the top with a picture of a chessboard beneath, the black figurines representing evil, and the white figurines portraying good. Flames will be arching up over the board in an impressive backdrop to the scene. By the time this article is reproduced in "Heaven's Metal," the tape should be available in its final packaged format. Plans for stickers, posters, and T-shirts are also being actively contemplated. To order the tape, etc. send \$5.00 to Bibi McGill, 5535 E. 1st Ave, Denver CO 80220.

In the hectic scene of overnight-success-oriented bands, it is a mark of distinct maturity to

find a group of excellent and committed musicians that humbly recognize their talent, but shelve it behind the truth they first want to display in Christ. "I don't want to be one of these 'praise God I'm a Christian, while the whole world goes to hell' believers," Kent emphatically states. "That's not why we exist." Dale muses further, "That's true, we're ministers first; musicians second." Tim adds his thoughts too, "You know, if we never 'made it' in terms of what the world defines success as, we'd all still be actively serving God somewhere or somehow. All of us have determined that we have been called to completely serve God, and God doesn't need a band to get His work done."

Recently EZRA played at the Mardis Gras, one of Denver's biggest nightclubs. They were featured along with two other secular groups that were hailed also as up-and-coming. But, EZRA had a point to make, and make it they did! They delivered by far the most energetic, tight, and creative set of the three bands there, and they had a chance to speak their piece. Well, they did, and the saving message of Christ resounded uncompromisingly to a large and rapt crowd. It was impossible afterwards to engage the proximity of their dressing room as EZRA was landed upon by a multitude of new fans, many who were eager to hear more of Jesus Christ.



EZRA will be a band to watch!! Musically, they are exceedingly impressive. Professionally, their standards are high and always being set higher. In terms of ministry and message, they will exercise their calling despite all degrees of

success and failure. Pray for this band. They need your prayers. They know they face a battle out there, and Satan often rises to the occasion with his weapons of doubt, insecurity, temptation, and complacency. Pray too, and most specifically that God will guide each one of them in their continued growth and love. I am sure that as these young warriors in EZRA continue to mature in Christ, they will be an instrument in God's hands that He will use to save and encourage many.

It has been a pleasure introducing EZRA to you all. God bless.

Love in Christ,
Steve Schmutzer

Metal Tracks Cont'd

Speaking of electrocutions, the lead guitarist for Messiah Prophet was plugging his guitar in and got electrocuted. He had to go to the hospital and they couldn't do the show that night in the Northeast.

Jerusalem will be in the U.S. this November, the first time they've played in the U.S. for three years! A mini-stop tour is being planned with Whitecross. Tentative stops are: New York; Suburban Philadelphia; Columbus; and Chicago. Their **Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent** video will premiere soon.

X-Sinner, Christian metal's AC-DC clones, has an address! How about that? Write c/o Jim Ortega, 6679 Via Riviera Way, Buena Park CA 90620.

Stone Vengeance, another band with an address, can be reached by writing c/o Mary Coffey, 76 Topika Ave, San Francisco CA 94124.

The **California Metal 2** album will soon be out. Featured will be: **Malachia**; **Emerald**; **Eternal Ryte**; **Recon** (formerly **Deroque**); and **Soldier**.

CJ Blaze is forming a glam band. You can send for a promo kit for \$7.50. (I don't know if that includes a tape or not.) Write CJ Blaze, 266 West 22nd St, Holland MI 49423.

Shout recieved a "Five K" review in Kerrang! They said, "Shout are, without a doubt, the best ever Christian hard rock group...the best band to have emerged from LA since Ratt."

Bride has two videos available. One is of Matryx and early Bride. The other one is recent and has new tunes from the **Live To Die** album on it. Both are \$15.00 each. Write Bride c/o Dale Thompson, Route #1, Box 115A, West Point KY 40177.

The Obligator reports that **Trouble's** guitarist, Bruce Franklin, got saved at a Bible study at former drummer, Jeff Olson's house. Write Trouble and share Jesus with them. Trouble, PO Box 348438, Chicago IL 60634-8438.

Rockin' With The Levites

By Daniel Nordström

This is hot stuff, readers! One of the best White Metal bands in the USA is going out on the road with one of the best Swedish White Metal bands. In September, Leviticus are going out on the road together with Bloodgood in Europe. These two bands are going to play 35 gigs together over the whole of Europe...and maybe they'll also tour together in the USA later.

"It's great," says Bjorn Stigsson, guitarist for Leviticus, "that's the only thing I can say. It's going to be wonderful to preach God's Word over all of Europe."

Leviticus is now on tour in Sweden. Leviticus is: Sonny Larson, vocals; Bjorn Stigsson, guitars; Hakan Andersson, bass and vocals; and Kjell Andersson, drums. On tour they also have three friends from Stigsson's solo album **"Together With Friends"**: Tina Spangberg, vocals; Dan Tibell (ex Jerusalem), keyboards; and Dan Fernstrom, keyboards. I guess and hope that Dan Tibell will join Leviticus permanently. He is a very competent keyboard player and also a great guy.

"I don't know so much about the future," says Dan Tibell, "but I'm praying for it and after this tour I will decide."

"It is great for us to have Dan Tibell in Leviticus," says Bjorn Stigsson. "He is a motivating power both musically and spiritually."

****Why did you leave Jerusalem, Dan?**

"God told me to move. I think that God sometimes wants you to move to something else. And, after 10 years in Jerusalem, God wanted me to move."

****Leviticus is now working on a new album. When will it be released?**

"We are working hard now and we hope that it will be released before our European tour together with Bloodgood," says Bjorn.

Bjorn Stigsson is the one who basically is Leviticus. He's a great man of God and has written almost every song that Leviticus has made.

****How is it now that Sonny Larsson has joined the band?**

"Sonny and I write together. Sometimes I write the lyrics and he the music. Sometimes I write the music. We work fine together and get great inspiration from God."

****I heard some of your new songs on your Sweden tour and I must say that they were great.**

"Yes, we are very satisfied with them too."

****Why did Terry H and Ez Gomer leave Leviticus after only one record?**

"They live in Gothenburg and couldn't move. It's a long way from



Sonny Larsson (Photo By Hanno Viita)

us (Leviticus lives in Skovde, Sweden) and it was hard to work together."

****But the fact that Sonny Larsson has joined the band and Hakan Andersson came back must have made you glad?**

"Yeah, Hakan is a great guy and it's fantastic to have him back in the band. Sonny is a great singer and, especially in the studio, you can hear that. He learns very quick and is Sweden's best vocalist."

****I asked Sonny Larsson how he has got such a wonderful voice.**

"It's a gift from God. The most fantastic thing is that, before I became a Christian five years ago, I could hardly sing! I tried, but it didn't sound well," says Sonny.

In fact, Sonny was offered to be singer in the Swedish guitar hero Yngwie Malmsteen's band, but said no.

****Why?**

"I don't like the guitar-based metal that Yngwie plays and the most important factor is that I'm a Christian and want to sing for God. But, of course it was flattering to get an offer like that."

I can tell you readers, that Sonny Larsson is wild on stage. He jumps, dances and sings for Jesus Christ

with great energy that makes you happy. Leviticus is real hot. I hope you will see them in the USA soon, and to all the readers in Europe: don't miss them!!!

"We know that we can make a tour in the USA if we'd like," says Bjorn, "because there are many people who want to see us and we really want to come to the States. When we get an offer that is economically favorable, we are coming. But, we can't afford it if we must pay it from our own pocket."

****What do you think is important for us Christians to think of today?**

"The cleft between saved and unsaved people grows bigger every day," says Bjorn. "It's time for us Christians to go out in the world and really tell the people the good message. We must work hard for Jesus and stand up for him."

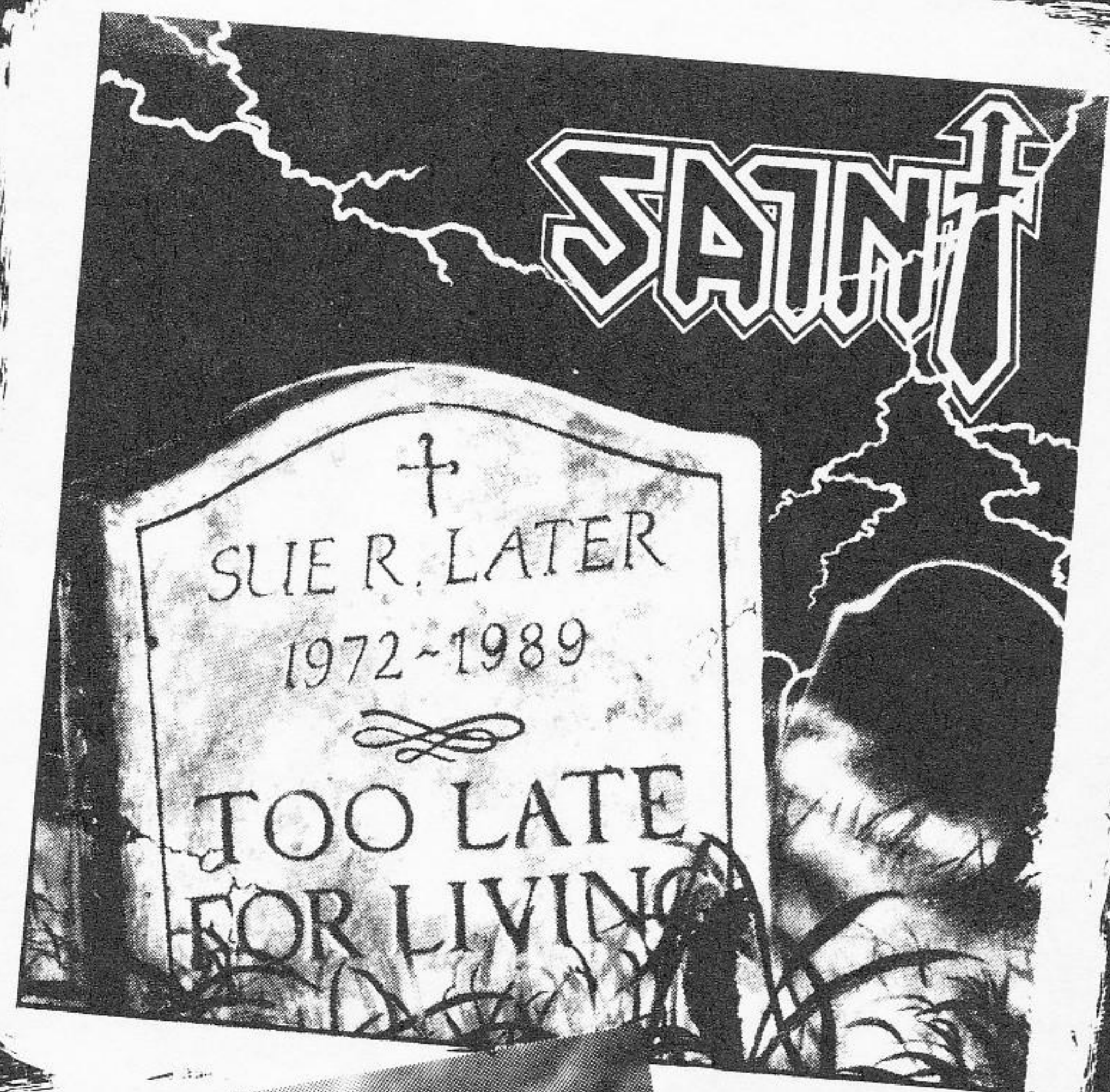
To all the readers of Heaven's Metal, please keep Leviticus in your prayers. Pray for the tour with Bloodgood and pray for every Christian musician in the world.

Also remember to thank our Lord for the 18 headbangers who gave themselves to the Lord during Leviticus' short Sweden tour. Keep them in prayer.

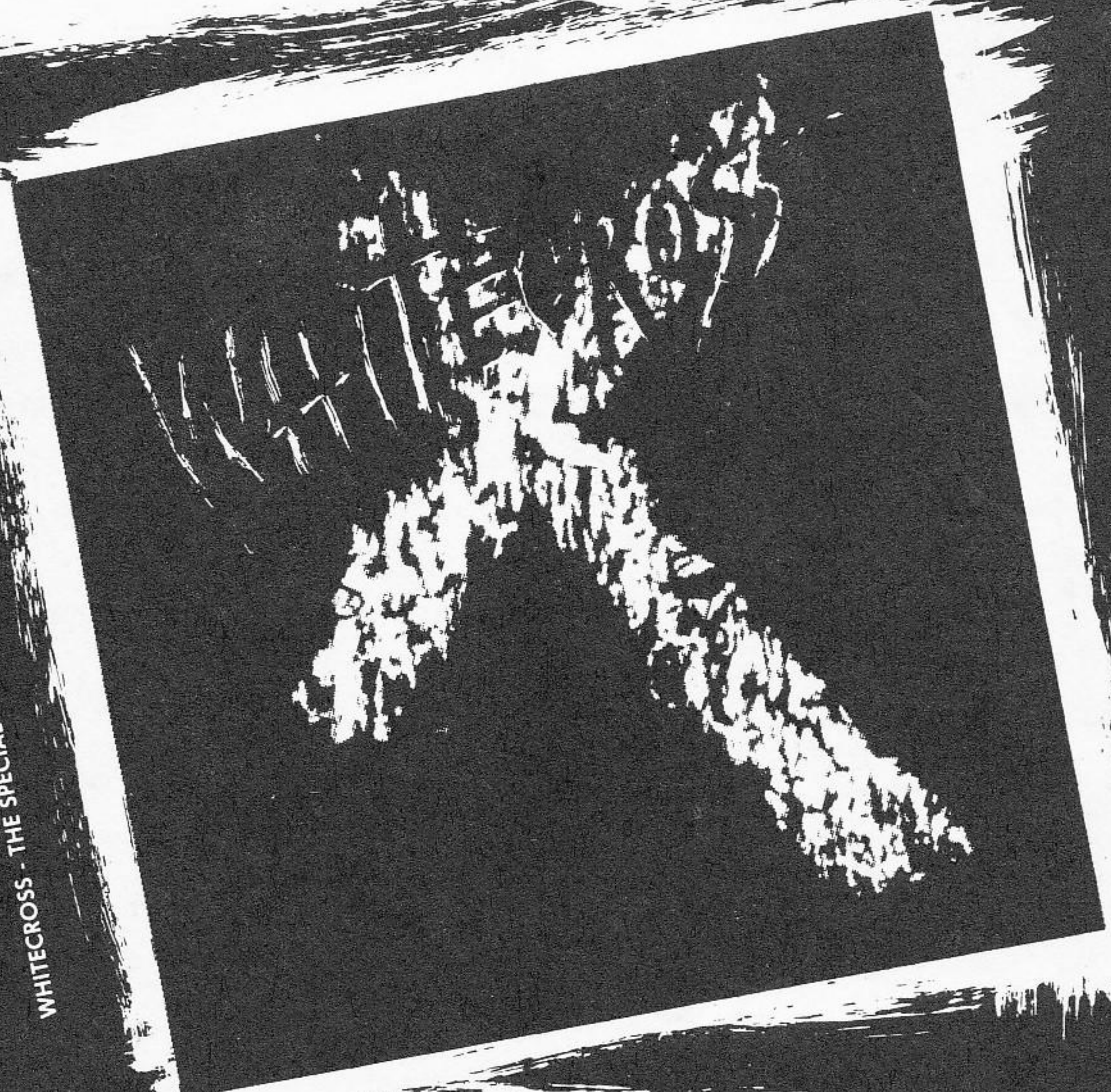
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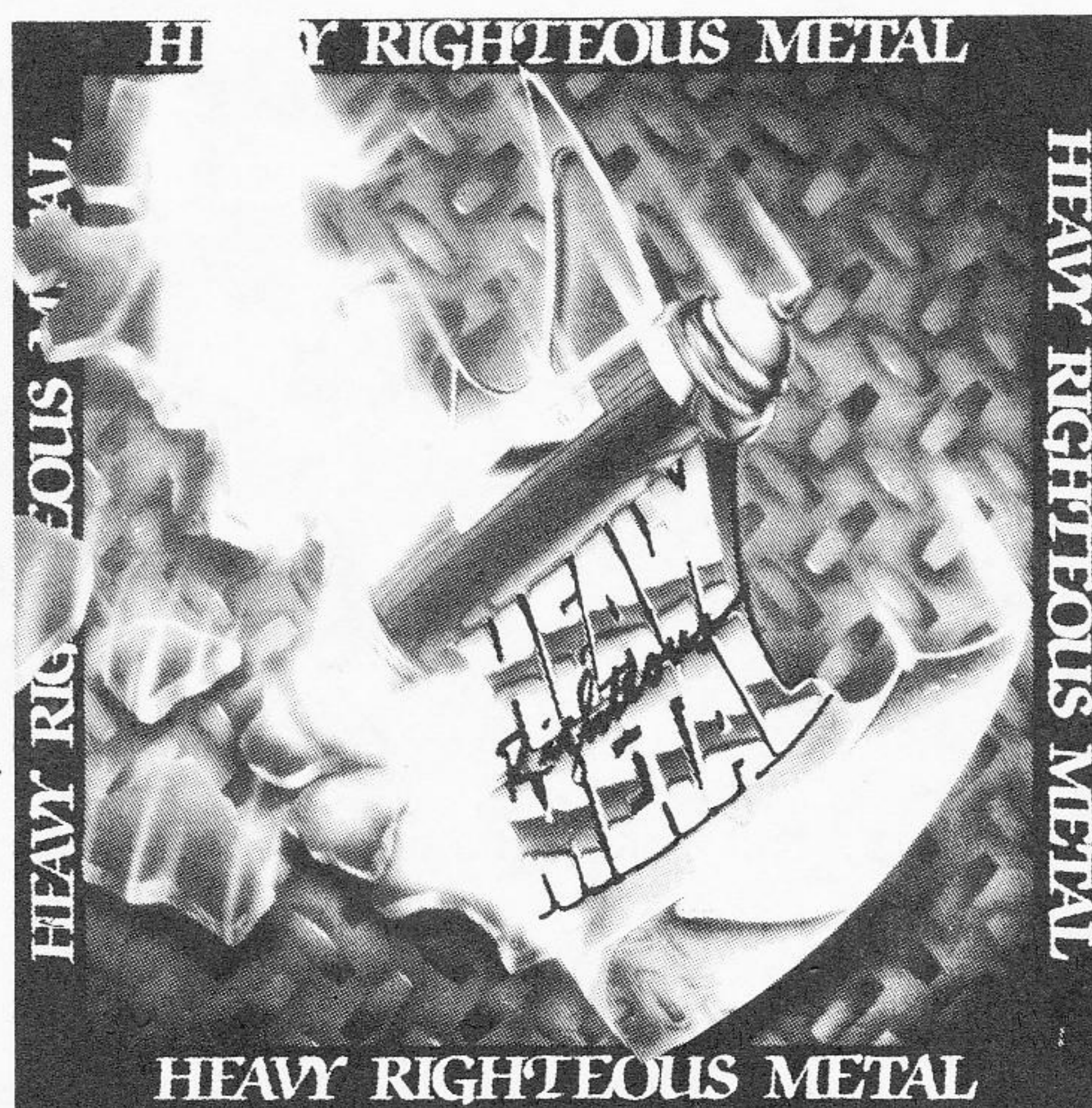
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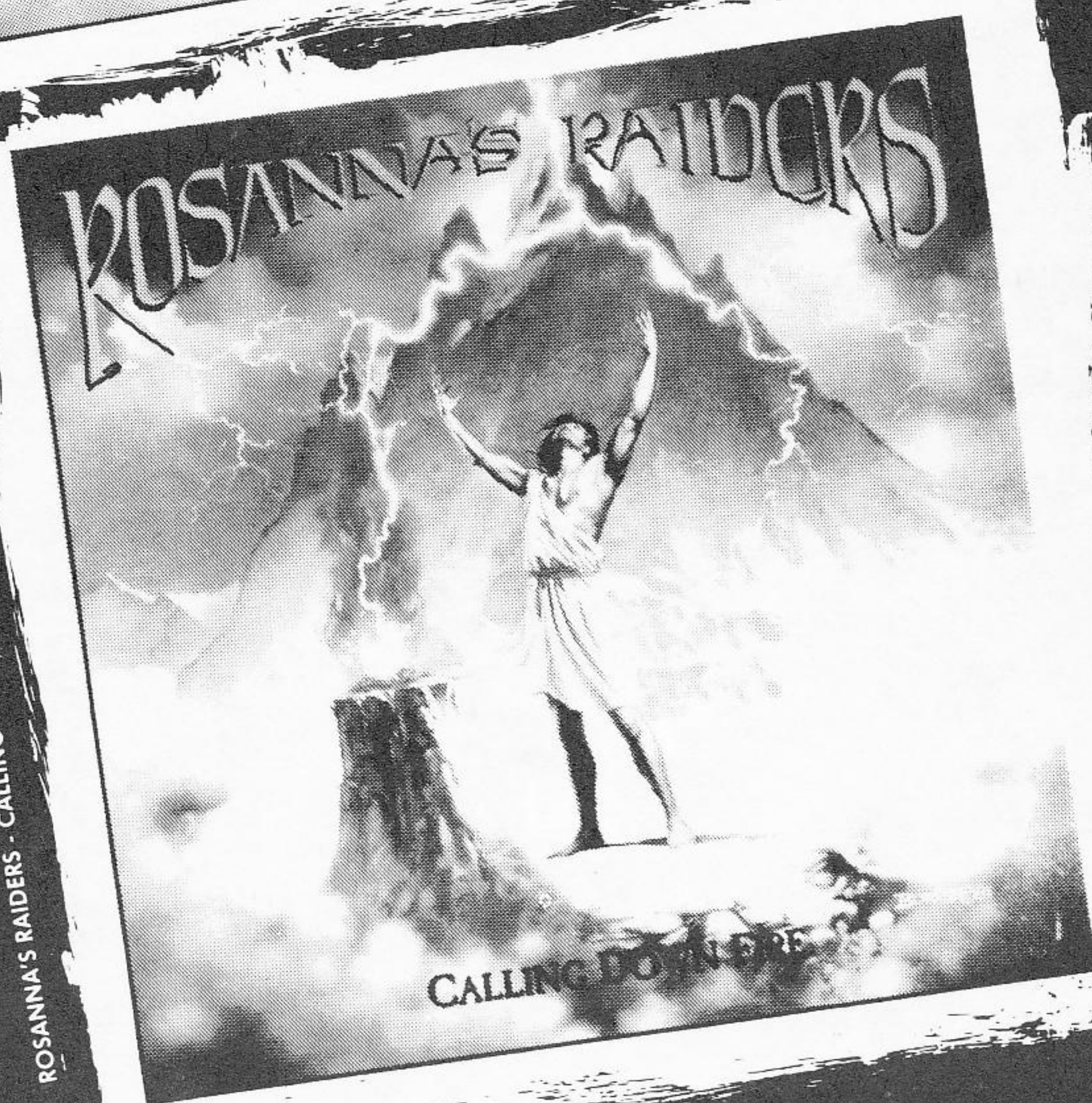
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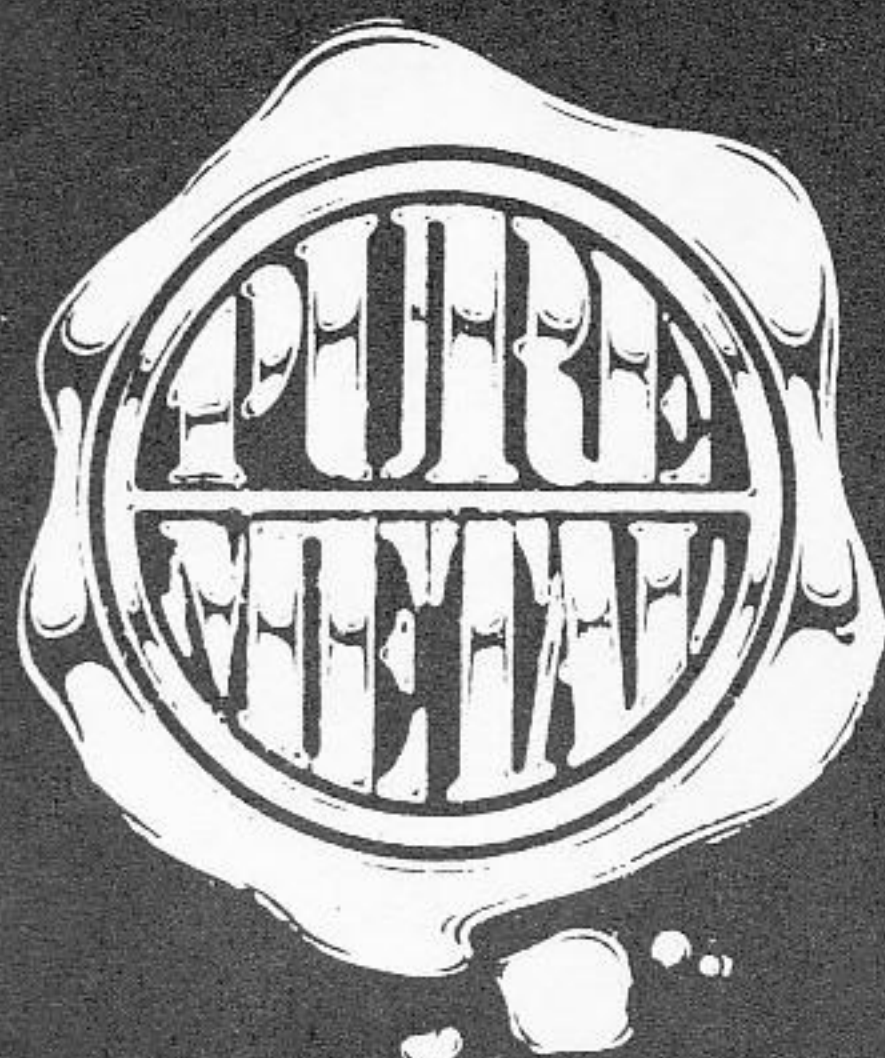
HEAVY RIGHTEOUS METAL - VARIOUS ARTISTS

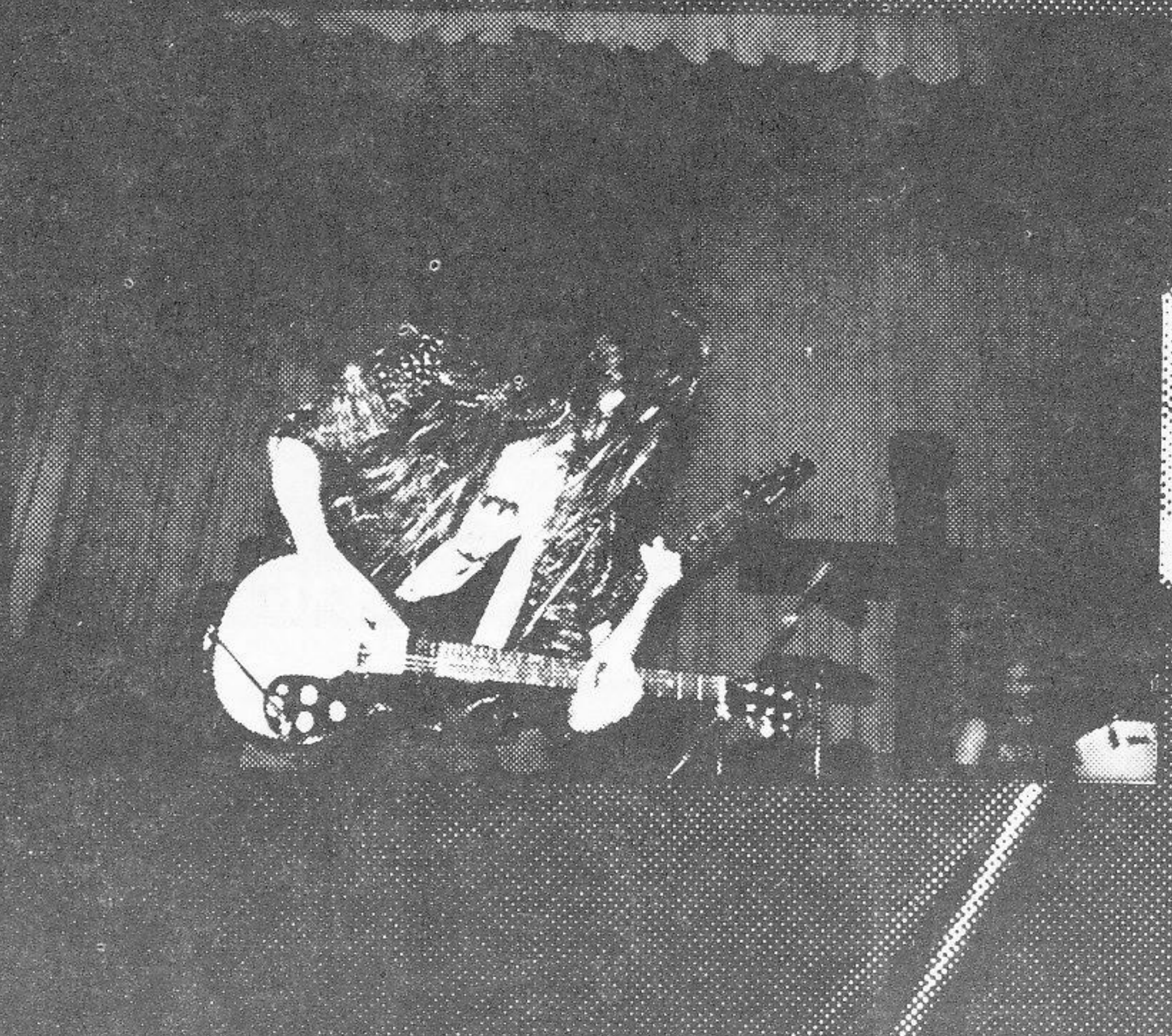
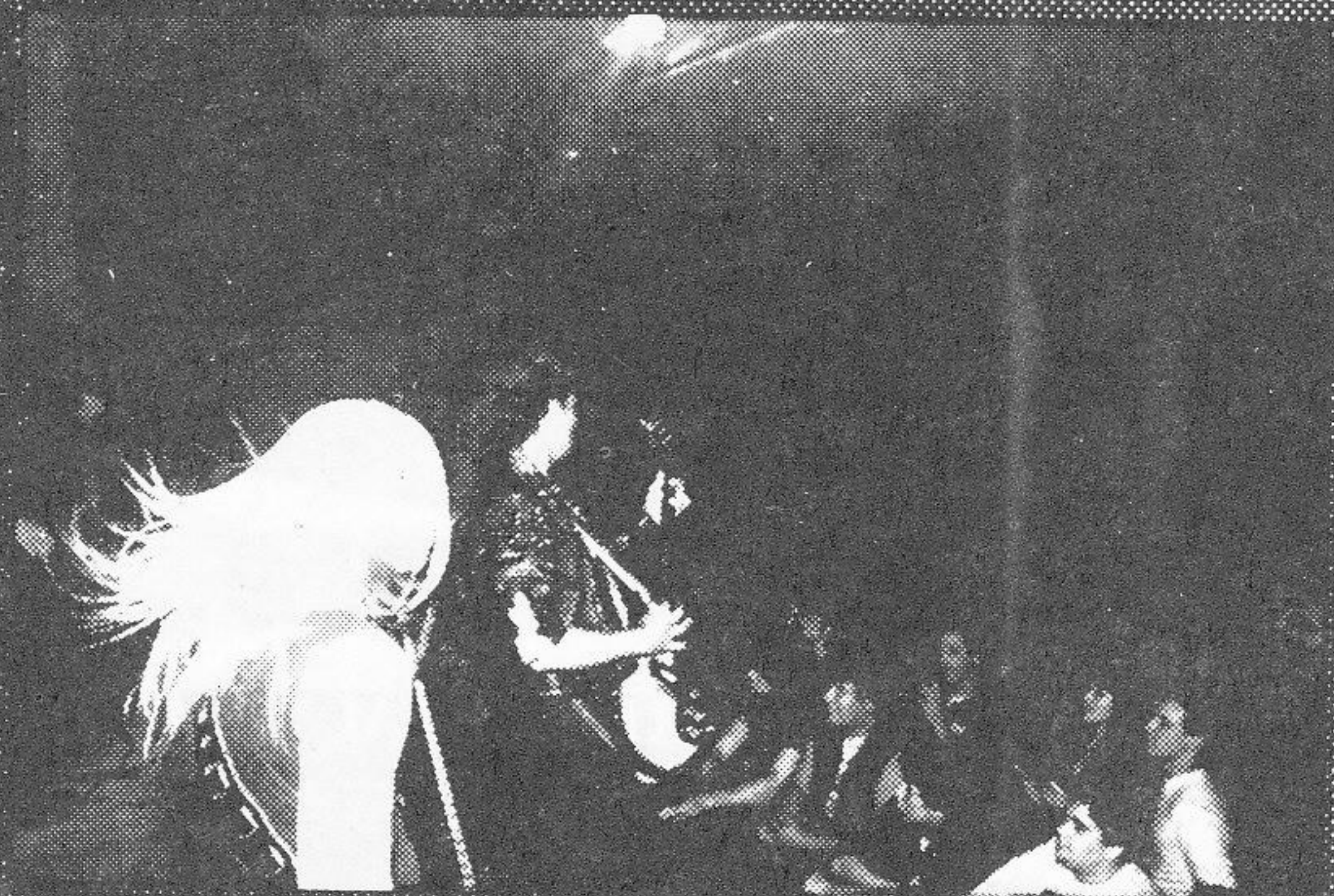
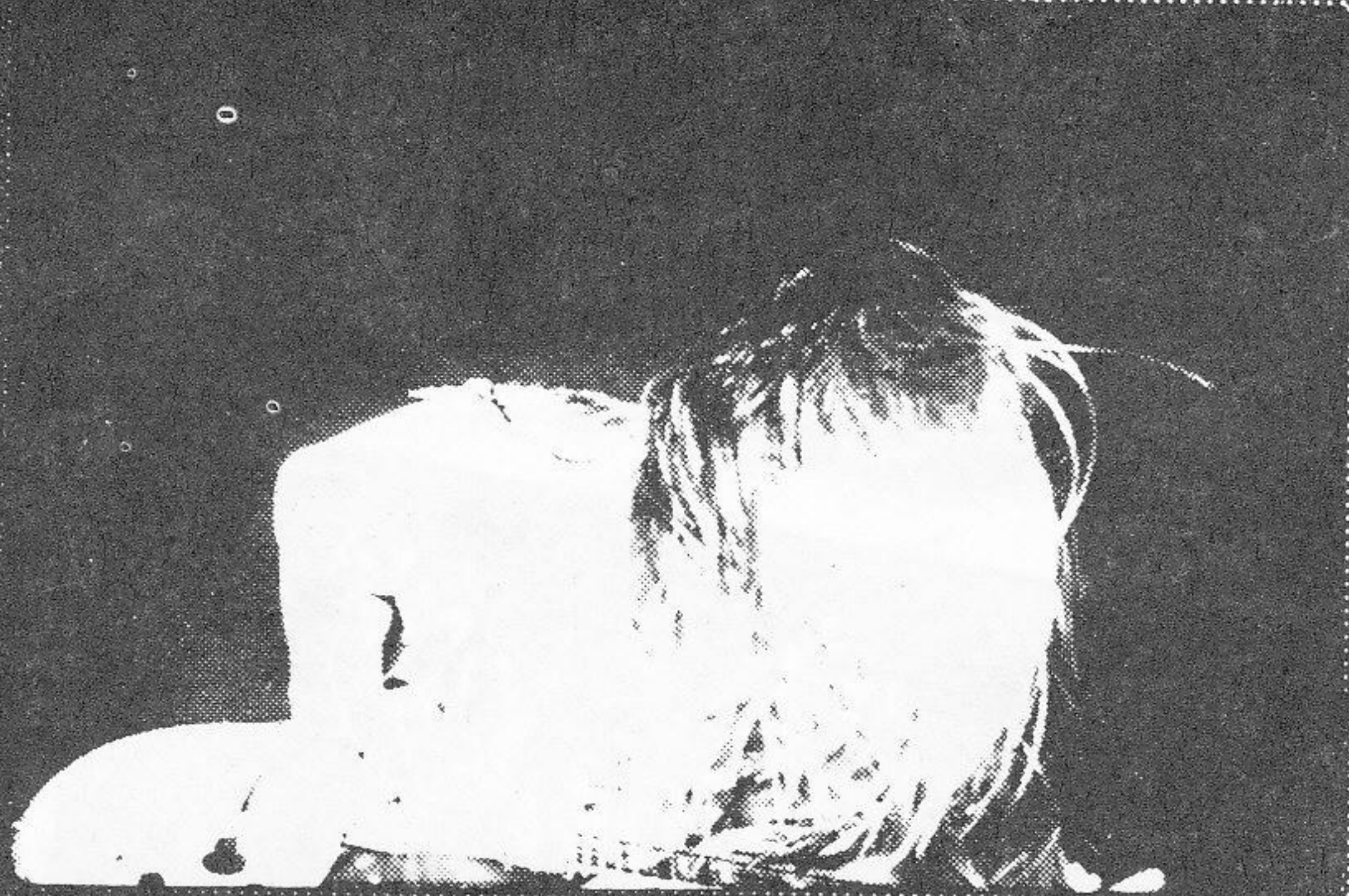


ROSANNA'S RAIDERS - CALLING DOWN FIRE

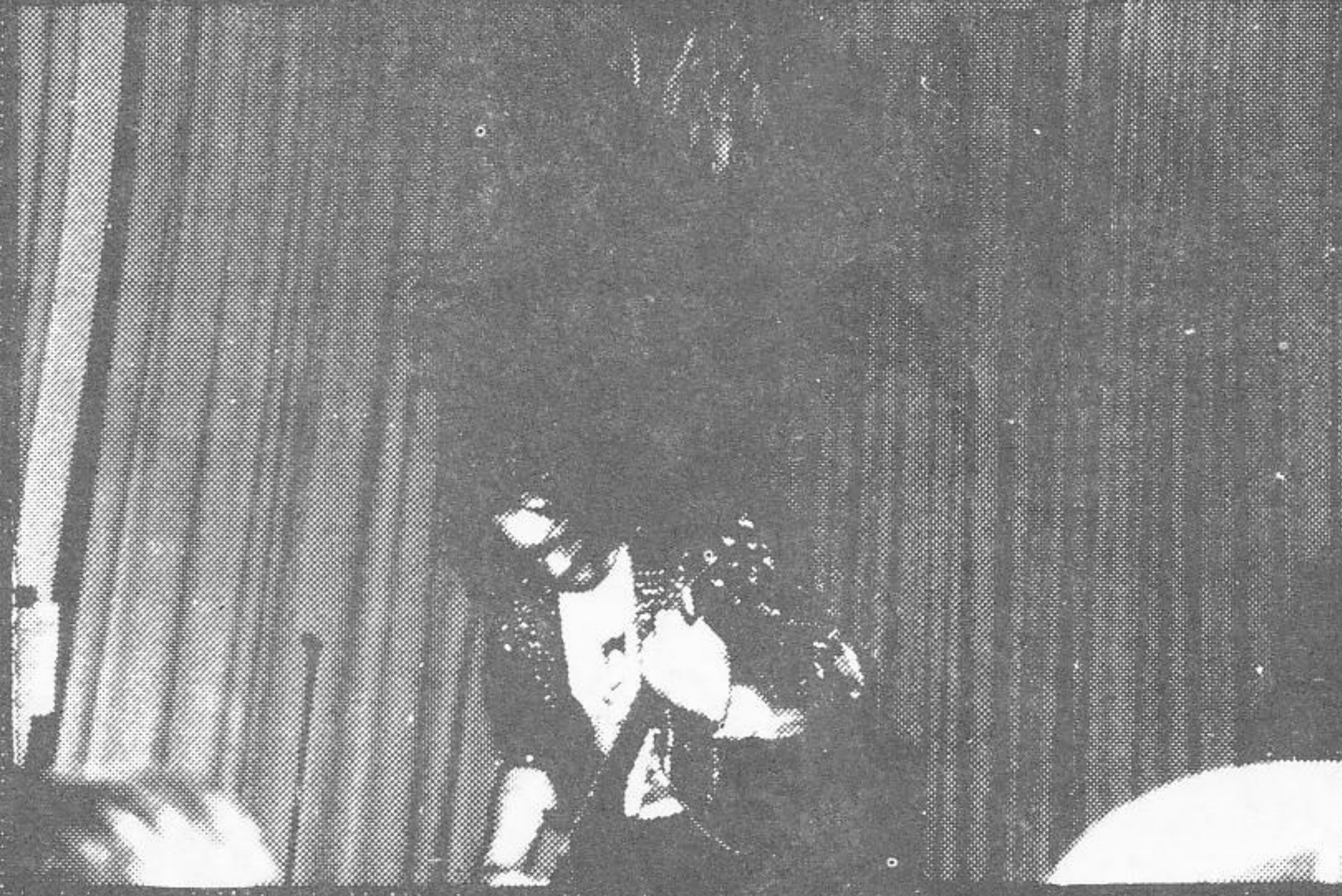
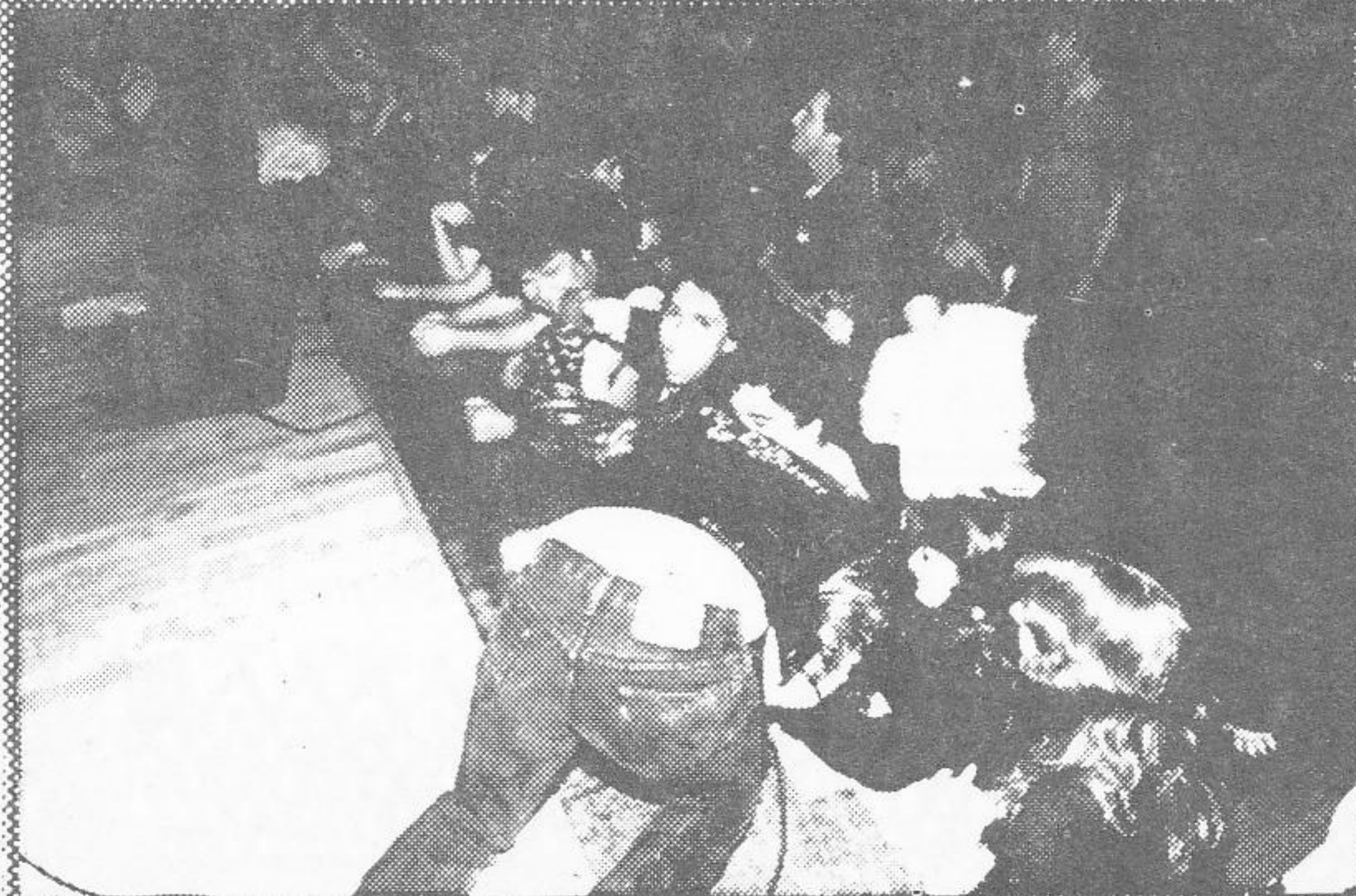


BRIDE - LIVE TO DIE

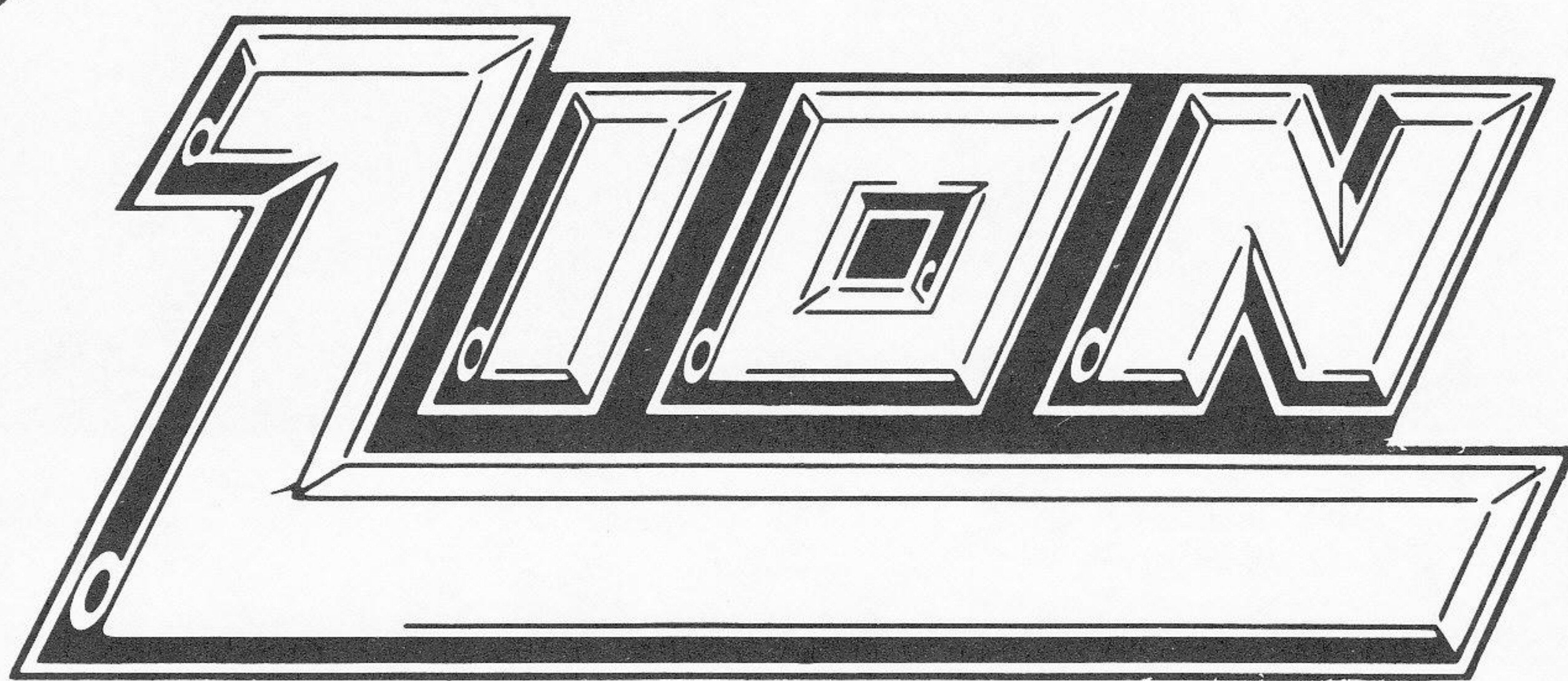




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David Zaffiro
Guitars, B. Vocals

Les Carlsen
Vocals

Mark Welling
Drums

Here it is! A good, inexpensive mail-order service for Christian rock. (Well, Long's is a good place too.) Tired of getting ripped off? Al Matthews, who's successfully been running a Christian bookstore, Daystar, for a good while, has a discount mail order plan with a very good selection of bands. Not a whole lot of smaller, unsigned bands yet, but as Spring Arbor increases their quantities of underground bands, so will Al. He stocks new releases at great prices and free postage in the domestic US! \$14.98 cds are \$11.98 and \$9.98 records and tapes are only \$7.98. This is going to be a good service, because I know Al is reputable. Write Daystar, 78 E. Main Street, Marlton NJ 08053.

Petra's bass player, Mark Kelly, has left the band to pursue advanced studies in architectural science. He was replaced by Ronnie Cates.

Gardian will release their album sometime in late November.

I heard the new Amy Grant album.

Second Chance is signing with Talking Town Records.

Carlos Vasquez reports that **Antioch**, one of the hot bands featured at the His Fest II, has a

drummer with no legs!

East Coasters! Go to the R.R.A.D. Fest '88 (Righteous Rock Against Drugs), featuring **Tempest**, **Believer**, **King's Kids**, **Alexander**, **Soldier** (from the east coast), **Matrix** (not Bride, but a local band), **Descendant** and **Revelation Band**. It'll be hosted by Real Rock Fellowship. It's July 30th in Baltimore, Maryland. For info, write Real Rock Fellowship, PO Box 1625, Glen Burnie MD 21061.

Bloodgood did a big show in Seattle, featuring the "Passion" segment with **Awake**, **Crucify** and **Messiah**. It was complete with a make up artist, an actor playing Jesus, and a choir for choruses such as **Messiah** and **Stand In The Light**. The actor gets a plaster back put on him with blood capsules inside. When he gets whipped, his back actually opens up and bleeds! One point during **Crucify** a mob descends upon Jesus and starts beating him. During this time, the make up artist applies enough makeup to make the actor look like what Isaiah said the messiah would appear: not recognizable as a man. When Pilate (Les) screams, "Take him!" The

crowd parts to reveal the bleeding Christ. Then Jesus is nailed to a cross, where blood packs bleed out of his hands and feet!

A local cable company from Seattle has taken an interest and will film it.

Look for a totally new Bloodgood sound now. Michael Bloodgood says their producer, Terry, took apart the band and put it back together again.

Bloodgood is headlining the **Metal Fest '88**. The lineup features: **Zeal**; **Chosen Stranger**; **Torah**; **Sacred Warrior**; **Tempest**; and **Bride**. Tickets are \$12.50 in advance and \$15 day of show. Call (217) 875-5963 for info. They've got Metal Fest 88 t-shirts, buttons, and stickers. T-shirts are \$7.50 and black. Buttons are \$1.50. Stickers are \$2. Add \$2 postage when ordering t-shirts. Send money orders or cashiers checks in U.S. dollars only to: Douglas Rudow, 433 Carol Manor, Decatur IL 62526.

Oz Fox appears in Stryper's latest video, **Always There For You**, sporting a double-neck Jackson, painted yellow and black of course. It looks hot!

King's X Is Coming



A new band is making waves in the world of metal. King's X play some great music. To describe it in one paragraph, let alone one sentence, is practically impossible. The band's bio aptly describes their sound as "a cornucopia of influences spanning the past three decades to produce a boldly original sonic landscape." Kerrang!, which is basically the world's leading metal magazine, gave King's X their highest rating of five K's.

Because of the immense truth presented in such a thoughtful way in their lyrics, I felt a Heaven's Metal interview was called for. King's X is not the new Christian metal band on the block. They are a group of artists, true artists mind you, who are expressing what's inside their spirits, minds and hearts. What's inside these guys? Well, you certainly can't read a whole person by ten song lyrics, but one can sometimes see a good reflection of what's inside when someone like King's X expresses themselves through music.

In The New Age seems to say in five minutes and 23 seconds what authors like Constance Cumby and Dave Hunt take two books to say: "In the new age humanity is looking for itself. The ancient wisdom taken from the shelf. A light so dark. A heaven that is hell...in the new age the trap is open no one even cares. The well-disguised one hidden in their stares. Disguise your lying words with love depending on the good of man. The truth the symbol of a dove will unmask the maker of your plans in the new age. I see the blind lead the blind in the new age in the search for the mind in the new age, but I know what they'll find."

What Is This? speaks of a hope that you won't find on a Whitesnake or Poison record: "God! It looks so hopeless, but I know it isn't true. What is this that gives me hope in the middle of the night and makes me run to you? What is this that lights my way through the hours of the day? Tell me what to do. Oh Lord, they say that I don't know

you. Oh Lord, they say I am deceived. God! You told me different. I have no choice but to believe...What is this that lights my way through the hours of the day? Tell me that it's true. What is this that gives me hope in middle of the night? Makes me run to you. What is this that lights my way through the hours of the day? Tell me that it's you. Tell them. Tell me."

Sometimes reflects hope also: "I stand here waiting for new Jerusalem. I know it's greater than the world outside."

Thanks to Megaforce/Atlantic Records, the world gets exposed to the Truth in the lyrics of King's X. The following phone interview took place with drummer Jerry Gaskil and guitarist Ty Tabor, who were at Atlantic's offices in Rockefeller Plaza in New York, and a later interview with vocalist, bassist Doug Pinnick.

****You guys are making a big splash in the music scene right now. How does it feel?**

"It feels kinda good actually," says Jerry Gaskill. "It's something we can't actually pinpoint and define, you know. It seems to be happenin', so we'll take it in."

"**Sometimes** Kerrang! scares me," admits Doug, "'cause they like us so much. It's like, 'these poor kids. When they finally get the record, it's like a letdown.' When they get done raving, I just go, 'My goodness, guys! If everybody believes this, than this is really great.' It gets kind of scary sometimes."

****Have you ever experienced stuff like this before, like being in Rockefeller Plaza, doin' all sorts of interviews and basically getting royal treatment?**

"Well, my Mom used to treat me real nice. As a kid I came to New York and did an audition for a Kool-Aid commercial. It was the first time I came to New York. I did a lot of this kind of stuff, like going to studios, going to people's houses and talking to important people, you know. Along the line, there's been a few here and there. I guess this is the biggest and most important."

****How would you classify or describe your music?**

"Well, that's a hard thing for us to say. We like to just let the album speak for itself. Let the album classify the music. For us to decide that it's this or that might take away from what it could actually be. Whatever people decide what it is, that's what it is for them. As far as we're concerned, we like to just let the album speak for itself."

****Do you see yourselves continuing along these lines or moving towards something else musically?**

"It's kind of like being led by the wind, ya know? We're just gonna go wherever that wind takes us. Whatever comes out of us inside. We have no real definite plans for the

musical future. It's just kind of wherever we'll go. I'm sure it'll be rock and roll, and it'll be hard. As far as deciding exactly what it's gonna be, I can't do that."

****How do you guys write songs?**

"There's different ways. I guess the basic way is one person, mainly Ty or Doug, will bring a song together in the rehearsal place. We'll dissect it and we'll all have our input and, by the time we're done doin' all that, you know, struggling and doin' the whole thing, it turns into a King's X tune. In that sense, we're all writin' the song together. Usually somebody comes up with the basic structure of the song. We just kind of put our two cents in."

****How did King's X come together?**

"We all kind of migrated to a certain part of the country together at different times. We met each other at different times and, over the course of time, we finally got together and said, 'Hey! We like playing with each other. Let's be a band.' It's been about eight years and here we are today."

King's X are making a living doing what they do. "We've been together eight years," says Doug, "and none of us have had a daygig since we've had this band. We've been playing a long time. We've been doing clubs forever. Actually, we're just doin' now what we've been doin'--playing music. Before, we did cover tunes, but we did originals in it."

****How did you get signed by Megaforce/Atlantic? What's the story behind that?**

"I think the basic jist is Doug had a roommate," replies Jerry, "who was moving out of town, and he wanted a tape of the band, so Doug forked one over to him. He played it for a friend and that person played it for Johnny Z of Megaforce. I guess he was really into it and really impressed. He got in touch with us and corresponded with our manager, Sam, and invited us out to play at the Cat Club (NY). We played there and that night we signed a deal."

This happened in June of 1987.

****Before that, did you have a demo you'd been shopping around?**

"Yeah, we've been doin' demos for years. We finally got this one together and that's the one Johnny heard. We pretty much sent 'em to every label that we knew of. Johnny was the only one that seemed to have caught the vision with us. It just kind of seemed to fall into place, like other things seem to fall into place, and here we are."

Right now King's X has a video on MTV, called **King**. They plan on doing another one, which, according to Jerry, will probably be **Shot Of Love**.

****Do you guys come up with the video concepts or do you get a producer that says, "Here's what I wanna do?"**

"Sam, the manager, pretty much comes up with the video stuff. He's an excellent video and film maker

(He's the guy who produced ZZ Top's **TV Dinners** video (the one where the character used a ouiji board as a tv tray). He's like the fourth member of the band. He brings the ideas to us. We usually like 'em. We say, 'Yeah. It's great. Go for it.' We're always in touch on everything--the four of us. Everything basically comes out of the four of us. As far as videos, Sam's pretty much the guy.

"There's also talk of Goldilox too. That being the ballad kind of song."

"We're gonna do **Shot Of Love** in mid-June," says Doug. "Atlantic has vowed to spend some money and get really behind it to push it real heavy, 'cause they didn't really get behind **King**, like Megaforce wanted 'em to. But, we made a small dent into the rock and roll world."

"...if there's something for them,
then it's life. If there's nothing
for them, then it's just rock 'n' roll."

"The next one will be more of the whole band all the way through it. That was their biggest complaint, was that there wasn't enough of the band. So, we decided to do it, I guess to be nice. Usually we do what we want to do. We'll argue with 'em and fight 'em. We very seldom ever give in to them and they respect us for it. They just said, 'Okay, this is very unique and we don't know what to do, so we're gonna trust you.' We kind of gave into them on this next one. They said, 'We wanna see the band.' So, we said, 'Okay. We're gonna give you a whole lot of the band.'"

****Could you explain the lyrics to Shot Of Love?**

"I write songs, lyrically, as pictures. In **Shot Of Love**, I think of a person out in a forest or a desert or a big field somewhere, in Illinois or something. He's got his hands up in the air, saying, 'Hey, send us some help. Send us some love. Help us to love each other. We just need a shot of it,' you know, like a junkie or something. 'It's not here. We need a shot.' A lot of times I think of a cupid or something, you know, in the air just shootin' arrows at people. Goin' 'shot of love. Send us a shot of love.' It's kinda like a prayer. It's kinda like a desire, like a dream.

"It's not something that I think is gonna happen, because I don't believe things are gonna get better. They're just gonna get worse, until the end. But, I think there's hope for the individual. One on one, everybody dies alone, they're born alone, and they come to the truth alone. That's why I look at it as 'send us a shot of love,' even

though most people won't even catch it.

"I write a lot of hope in hopelessness. To me, the two things go hand in hand, because this is a hopeless situation, but yet there's hope for people who are trying to find a way out. It's got lots of paradoxes and 'catch 22's'. Of course, you see a lot of people that think, 'Let's put a band together and we can make a difference and the world can be better.' It never has been, even when Jesus was here. He didn't change anything, you know. Even those other great people, like Ghandi and people like that. They made a statement. (Martin) Luther King, he did a great thing too, but overall nothing has really changed. People's hearts are still, you know, selfish and on and on, but I believe that's why Jesus...the one thing that Jesus did was He touched the individual...He focused on the inner man, which everyone forgets about. That's what I mean by hopeless. To me, it's a hopeless situation, but yet it's not. Everyone needs encouragement, I think. I get real heavy a lot of times and I tend to write about things that are real depressing, but I find that if you write about a depressing thing and put hope in it...you don't have to put an answer, you just have to give people enough initiative to say, 'Hey, maybe I can make a difference. It might not be much, but at least it's a difference.' I think that's a real important thing.

"I remember Bono said one time that they thought they (U2) could change the world with their music and then he later on retracted the statement and said he realized that they just couldn't do it. That's what I believe too. Everybody individually...it's like the salt, you know. We're the salt of the earth. Just go out there..."

****With my magazine I don't want to label anybody per se. I know that a lot of the Christian media would be quick to label somebody something or other. I know my readers would like to know how you feel about Christianity.**

"In what sense?" asks Jerry. "What do you mean?"

****About where you're coming from, as far as if you adhere to it. If you have become holy by the blood of Jesus. If you are a new creature or if you are an observer of Christianity. If you're a Christian.**

"I could say that and then I couldn't say that at the same time. The things I've read about the kingdom of heaven being within. In that sense, I'd say in every truest sense of the words that you're speaking to me, which are infinitely different for everybody...and that has to be understood man, is that the truth, which is what we're speaking about, is infinitely different for everybody, but there's only one door, you know? In that sense, I'm in every sense of the word that, in that I've entered into

the infinity of truth through that one door. So, that's a yes, a no and a maybe and an any kind of answer to your question that you want. See what I mean? This is the whole deal with those kind of questions with all the kind of media you're talking about: We always want to lump people into this thing. By lumping people into this thing, man, we completely take away everything that there is. Everything that is the truth of the matter. I mean, it's like trying to lump the truth into a thing. That's exactly what's happenin' with a lot of that kind of stuff. In that sense, I personally, and I think all three of us, want to stay completely away from that: being lumped, because being lumped takes away. Let that infinite truth, which we're talking about, speak for itself, 'cause it's already spoken. I'm just a partaker and, in a lot of people's cases, a victim of that truth, because of the media, because of the things we're taught. Because of the things that people tell us it is. When actually it's just inside. I wouldn't want to answer that question with the words you would want me to answer it with."

**Do you see yourselves as preachers? You do present truth.

"I don't personally," says Ty. "As a matter of fact, I shy away from that type of thing, that kind of thought actually. Maybe to some people we might be. Surely not intentionally. I don't think of myself as a preacher in any way. I least like to speak in public than the other two guys. I like mainly to let the album do the talking. Let that be really what it is, the final say of anything we have to say and to leave it open, because if it stimulates people to think and search for themselves, then that's good. Instead of just handing them what to believe or whatever, you know? I'm sure some people would probably think that, but for myself, no, I don't think of myself as a preacher. I don't like to speak. I'd rather let the album do the speaking on that kind of thing."

**It does a lot of speaking.

"Thanks," says Ty, "thanks a lot. I appreciate it. I just hope that it causes people to search for themselves. People individually have got to search for themselves. It's got to come from within their own self. If this in any way helps someone or causes somebody to even think about searching themselves or their soul or whatever, then that's great. It'd be so varied what different people would get from it, you couldn't nail it down I guess. There are some basic truths hopefully in there. We're always learning and everything. When you look back a few years ago and see how much you've grown and feel like you were an idiot then. We try to be honest about where we're at right now."

"I would rather people get what God wants 'em to get out of these



JERRY GASKILL

DOUG PINNICK

TY TABOR

KING'S X

lyrics," says Doug, "rather than me tellin' them the story of 'this is where it came from.' A lot of times...I've even met people that told me what they'd get out of certain songs and all this and I've gone, 'Whoa! I never thought of that!' That's great. I just look at it as it's all out of control (laughter). It's out of my hands. I figure He's gonna do what He's gonna do."

**Have you faced any opinions from the people at Megaforce about your faith, or are they just totally sold on you guys?

"They're totally sold on us," says Doug, "but they didn't know anything about what we felt or believe. They just felt it was real spiritual. One day they read the lyrics and they asked a question, 'Is this a Christian band?' Sam said, 'What do you mean by Christian?' and he says, 'Well, religious.' and he says, 'Well, what do you mean by that?' because Sam wants to make sure the right words get out. He says, 'Is it spiritual?' and Sam says, 'It's definitely spiritual,' and that's where we left it. They said, 'That's fine.' They're still behind us."

"Our philosophy is more like, 'We just play music and we say what we feel and leave it at that.' I think that, most people that have heard it, they take it that way. They think about it and then, if there's something for them, then it's life. If there's nothing for them, then it's just rock and roll. If they don't like the music, then they won't like it anyway. It kind of sounds like a haphazard way of playing music, but I think it's the only way we can do it."

**Doug, I understand you've played bass and done some work with Morgan Cryar's band and have seen One Bad Pig in concert. What do you think

of Christian music?

"As a whole? I think personally that, if they really believe that's what they're supposed to do, that's fine, but I think a lot of people should evaluate what they're doing and look within themselves and find out what God really wants 'em to do. A lot of times I think when you put the tag 'ministry' on top of it, I think you shouldn't charge money for it."

"I don't believe that you should charge somebody \$10 to come to your concert and get saved. That's something that really bugs me, but then on the other hand, we charge people to come to see us, but they come to see a show, 'cause that's our job. That's what we do. I feel like if more Christian bands would be honest and stop saying that 'this is a ministry' and just be honest and say, 'this is what I do for a living, come along with me and enjoy,' I think it would have more validity. I think a lot of people hide behind the word 'ministry' so they can do what they've always wanted to do. It raises a lot of questions to people who don't believe."

"I can't deny the fact that God uses 'em, like he uses me and all my flaws. I'd never get on a bandwagon and say, 'This is what I hate about it.' I'm not out to tell them what they should do. I'm trying to do what I believe is right for me. If it's right and it can be an example, I hope people will see it. If not, it's between me and the Lord."

"We hope people get something out of what we're saying. I always say, 'It's like we're hanging out with everybody and talking and it's like, this is what I think. What do you think? This is how I feel. How do you feel about that?' That's the kind of attitude we take. It's more like having a conversation with the

world and wanting to hear what they have to say. If you agree with what I'm saying, great. Then we see eye to eye. If you don't, then I just hope you like the music, because that's all I can do. That's all I am."

****It's called being real.**

"It seems like a lot of people that believe seem to be encouraged by a lot of the things...because they'd be at clubs and be drunk or they'd have a real hard time with their lives and they would just be going downhill and we'd be up there singing and something would hit them and give them hope that they can get closer to the Lord. I've seen a lot of people's lives change. It's neat, because we don't stand and use that as a justification for what we do. I believe that the Lord speaks to everybody and I just believe that He told me, 'Don't look for fruit. Just do what you do and let Him worry about it,' and I have and through the years I've seen things that have happened and it's just blown my mind, because a lot of times I walk offstage feeling like, 'Well, what did we do? We played rock and roll for a bunch of crazy people who are out of control.' I find later on that something really did happen, and then it feels good, you know. It's just so great to be able to do what you like to do, to do what you want to do and it's okay."

****You guys are credited on his Fuel On The Fire album.**

"Yeah, we don't ever talk much about that, 'cause we thought that might give people a wrong impression. It gets out sooner or later. Me and Jerry played with Phil Keaggy a long time ago, too, for a year. That was a real exciting thing for us. That's kind of like when we started seeing the folly in a lot of the Christian music. It wasn't Phil. Phil is like, as far as I'm concerned, a saint. It was just the people we had to deal with. I saw that it was pretty screwed up. Somebody made a comment one time and they said, 'Christian music is of the world, but not in it,' instead of 'in the world, but not of it.'"

"I really like One Bad Pig. I remember seeing them here. I remember when I first got the tape. I forgot the name of the song, but it's where he talks in the middle of it and then it's 90 miles an hour. I love it. I love that sound, because it's so intense, but yet it's so true. All my life, I've been playing for 20 years, I've always just wanted to see believers play aggressively, be out of control, you know, like the apostles were. Instead, I was around all these people who were afraid, you know, to do anything that wasn't real safe or to look different or weird. I never could convince 'em to just go off the deep end until I found Jerry and Ty. Then it was like we said, 'Let's go. Let's do it.' That's what I like about One Bad Pig. It's

like, they're just out of control. That's the only way you can really attract anybody, you've gotta do something out of the ordinary. Even Jesus did it. Even the apostles did it. If they did, then we might as well research that and see if it applies to us."

The whole band really enjoyed one of One Bad Pig's Houston gigs. "I thought that, for what they were doin'," said Jerry, "it was good. I really did. I thought it was genuine. It was a real kind of thing, as much as real can be real."

****Are you guys big C.S. Lewis fans?**

"As a matter of fact," says Jerry, "we are. Especially Ty and me and Sam."

(The next few minutes we spent talking about C.S. Lewis and George MacDonald books, as well as Frank Peritti's novel This Present Darkness.)

"Should I just pray?

Or should I attack?"

- Wonder

****Does the name King's X have any meaning?**

"Not really any kind of a mystical or nothing real spiritual in that sense. We were sittin' around in a room one day tryin' to decide for a new name. Sam, our manager, threw out the name King's X. It was a band that was a local band when he was a kid, who were kind of like heroes of their town. At first it was just a name and we didn't know what to think of it. As time went on it just kind of stuck with us. That's basically how it came about. It's basically just a name. We kind of researched the name. You kind of cross your fingers, you know, when you're playing tag and you're exempt from being "it". There's that meaning in Texas. It's called King's X when you do that. There's a legend that, in medieval times, when a king would send a message to another king, he'd use a messenger. If the king didn't like the message he would kill the messenger. But, if he had the mark of the king sending him, which would be the king's x, then he would be exempt from punishment. So, it's kind of an exemption thing when you get the king's x. I guess you can put meaning to that if you want. We've put meaning to it. Basically, it's a name."

****What are your influences?**

"That's a real hard thing. For me to say one, or four or five, I would leave a whole area out. It would be incomplete. It would be such a hard thing for me to do."

****How can the reader's of Heaven's Metal pray for you guys?**

"Well, from what I understand

prayer to be," says Jerry, "it's just whatever we feel inside our hearts. I can't imagine any other kind of prayer being valid. If there's a valid prayer, it's gotta be from the heart, I would imagine. Otherwise, it's just vain words going up into the air and kind of dissipating into nothing. I can't decide a person's prayer for 'em in that way. I'll have to leave that up to them."

****What's in the future for touring?**

"Supposedly, there's gonna be a tour with Robin Trower for a few nights," reports Doug. "Then we're supposed to go out on the road with Hurricane and do a double bill for a couple of months."

So far, King's X has been billed with big-name bands like Blue Oyster Cult and Robert Plant.

"We're really ready to go out and play," says Jerry. "It's been awhile since we played. We played at the Cat Club last night here in New York. It went really well. People responded greatly. It's nice to play for people who know our music. That's a new thing for us. The whole front of the audience was singing. It was amazing. It adds new dimensions to our thinking."

Letters To ed

Hey guys at H.M.:

I'm writing this letter about your little "prayer chain" paragraph. It took me a while to write. There seems to be one small problem. I'm not going to pray for the person before and after me on your subscriber list, because, to be quite frank, I'm not a Christian. When I was first turned on to Christian music, it was to Larry Norman. I then proceeded to build up a complete collection of his stuff--from **I Love You** to **Down Under**. (I do mean complete, 28 albums in all) Anyhow, I went from there to Prodigal (where'd they go?) to Rez, etc...It is good music. What they say is good. But it's not for me. I like your magazine--it lets me stay on top of a music form not many people know about, much less listen to. And a person doesn't have to be "saved" to appreciate good music, good information, and a good message.

I have read the Bible. I've studied it. I sang with two New York quasi-Christian rock groups. But the more I read the Bible, the more inconsistencies I found. I made the mistake of asking the Christians I know. I asked some very basic questions, like 'What is a Christian?' 'How does one become one?' etc...If I had asked one person, there probably wouldn't be a problem. But I asked quite a few. You know what? They all gave radically different, often (most often) conflicting answers. Now



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I've been into the New Age church, I studied in Armstrongism (W.W.C. of God), and was even into the occult, but never have I found such disunity in one church. Ask a Jehovah's Witness how a person becomes one, and they'll all tell you the same thing. Ask a Christian, and they'll say, 'Believe in God,' some add in to do His work, 'cause of James, some say I must choose to follow Him, others say He chooses me, etc, etc...I could ask you for the answer, but then I'd just have another one to add to the list. I won't tell you my problems with scriptural inconsistencies, because I don't want you to start questioning the Bible or your faith. I do understand that "millstone around the neck if you make your brother fall" verse.

I simply don't have faith. What I do believe about God, I believe because of non-scriptural proof. I believe there's a God, 'cause there's so much evidence for Him. I believe Jesus rose from the dead, because 11 out of 12 proven cowards died because they said He did, and cowards don't die for a lie. I believe Jesus performed miracles, because Roman "newspapers" of the day, as well as written records by the pharisees claim He did, and His enemies wouldn't say He did if He couldn't. My other beliefs follow that form, and not the usual "cause the Bible told me so" logic. I even believe Jesus died for the sins of the world. I had to use mathematics (I have a B.S. in Math and Computers) and logic to prove that to myself. And I did, but it's kind of long to write down, although if you'd like to see it, I could send it. I just don't go in for blind faith.

Finally, I don't want to be a Christian, because those I see stink. I have hitch-hiked through a certain Christian community for four years. There are over 1000 Christians there, and less than a hundred of us (me). I have never been picked up by a Christian. As a matter of fact, anywhere I've hitch-hiked, I've never been picked up by a Christian.

There's a verse about if a Roman asks someone to walk a mile, walk two. Also, the reason Christians don't pick up hikers is 'cause they're afraid for their lives. And yet non-Christians do! But, according to your beliefs, who should be the least afraid of strangers or for their life? I also read an article by this lady who was talkin' to waitresses. She said that, as a rule, with a few exceptions, if a person goes into a cheap restaurant or truck stop, Pizza Hut, etc..., and prays over their meal, then don't expect a tip. The waitresses all agreed--Christians leave tracks, not tips. One was noted as saying that, "They care more about our souls than our salaries." I'm sorry. I think they care more about their change than their waitress's well-being. I

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don't want to be known with the above crowd. I like hitch-hikers. I leave tips. And I have a lot of questions that get different answers all sworn to be scriptural, given by God, and conflict. Or I'm just called a pagan for asking these questions. I suppose that's true. Anyhow, I have no idea why I wrote all this, and you probably had to suffer through it this far just to understand the writing, so I'll sign off. Praying seems important to you, so I thought I'd write you so the guys above and below me don't get a raw deal.

Please don't use my name anywhere, just in case, as I live in the before-mentioned Christian community, and would be endlessly hassled if someone connected me with this letter. Not that it would happen, but nothing is worse than a horde of evangelicals jumping down your back. It's true, I know.

--Anonymous

ed--I replied personally to this honest letter. I thought it would be challenging and therefore good to reprint here (with the writer's permission). Take some time and answer his questions and challenges in your mind. It's good for ya.

Dear Mr. Van Pelt:

I am writing to you for two reasons. First of all, to include the two dollar difference due to the mistake in the CCM advertisement (In their Jan. article on Christian metal, they mentioned a subscription to H.M. being \$4, instead of \$6.). But more importantly, to give you some feedback on your magazine. Before coming to Christ, I was into

rock and roll, but would not be considered a "Metal Head", but since I have gotten saved I would say that I am one now. Anyway, your magazine has impressed me greatly. Your articles and interviews are informative, and enlightening to the various bands that I enjoy. But what is more that impresses me is how you take time, space and cost to put in the "extras". That is, the articles or editorials that are there just to give a message to your readers. For example, in the last issue, you had on the last page the editorial entitled "Believe". You also had published the letter from Keith Wells (from Roxalt) on certain wrongdoings in the Christian heavy metal circuit. And then there was the small enclosure regarding Jimmy Swaggart. I was very surprised that a magazine devoted to heavy metal would take the time to give that sort of message out to its readers. Even CCM wouldn't go to that length. Fully realizing that to take up two or more pages per issue to just give messages can cost more, you don't cut those corners and save yourselves some money. Basically, I am impressed and surprised that not only do you want to have a metal magazine but one that also guides, encourages, rebukes and corrects those who are reading it.

There is one question in my mind that I have about Christian heavy metal. That is, how many people in the actual bands are committed, humble, God-fearing, servants, and how many play three times a week and consider that to be their Christian walk? Even the California church, Sanctuary, does raise that question, how committed to God are they

On The Road With Barren Cross

really? Do they go to church, pray, read their Bibles, have fellowship, and put off sin? Or do they just play Christian music and call themselves Christians because of it? Also, if your magazine got wind of a popular Christian heavy metal group that was encouraging kids to do immoral, unChristian things (ie, doing drugs, illicit sex, being violent, etc) would you openly state what that group was about and let us know what they were doing? Or would you keep it quiet so as not to give the music a worse reputation than it already has? Anyway, I realize that you are probably too busy to give a reply to these questions, so they could be considered rhetorical. Thanks for listening and keep up the good work.

--R. Scott Goetz
Monogahela PA

ed--Thanks so much for your positive feedback. I do this work as unto the Lord, and therefore don't live for praise from men, nevertheless, it gives me encouragement, energy, and more motivation to keep working hard on Heaven's Metal. I really appreciate it. I am committed to this part of the body (Christian rockers), and therefore feel responsible to confront sin in a Biblical way when I see it (Not just when I hear about it. Please hear that.). For example, I think it's time to once again tell people some facts about the group **Trouble**. They sing good lyrics and play heavy, heavy music, but in concert they flip the audience off, cuss, get high and guzzle beer. They aren't living holy lives. I interviewed Jimmy "Oly" Olson, who used to drum for Trouble, in Volume I, Issue #3. He got right with God and left the group. He said an interesting thing. He said he thinks God has a purpose for Trouble. I agree that God can use Trouble, because they are singing God's Word in some of their songs. They need fellowship. They need concerned people to lovingly confront their sin in no uncertain terms. If you get a chance, go for it! That, plus a lot of prayer, is how the Lord pulled "Oly" out of the pit. As far as Sanctuary and other bands, read the articles in this issue and all the others. A person or group of people's hearts should come across in an interview. That's one of the ways I think God uses Heaven's Metal. It gives readers a glimpse into the hearts of these artists.

Barren Cross

Barren Cross has been out on the road for three months now (literally in some cases, as you'll read in this interview with Jim LaVerde), and they're actually not losing money doing it! Praise God!

**Well Jim, how's the road been to ya?

Photo By Curtis Tarpley



"The road has been very interesting. You learn a lot of things. I think the first thing you learn is getting along with each other. To be perfectly down-to-earth and normal, to be really honest with you, you learn a lot about patience and about loving your neighbor as yourself. I think learning to get along with each other has been the biggest thing that's been a trial. It's been great though. It's brought us really close together.

"On the road--for all those bands that are wanting to go out and try being on the road--you have no privacy, to say the least. The only privacy you have is when you're going to the bathroom."

**So you go to the bathroom all the time (laughter).

"So, you go to the bathroom all the time. But, there's obvious benefits, you know. You see a lot of kids, people giving their lives to Jesus Christ, hundreds of people turn their lives around for the Lord. A lot of people get re-committed throughout the tour. I think we've played to about 15,000 people through the whole tour. We've played to an average crowd of about 300 per night.

"God has really, really blessed us. We haven't gone in the red.

We're staying in the black. We're making it financially. Everybody's paying their bills and making enough money to make it by. The Lord's been really faithful.

"We've got a lot of exciting things coming up. We've got the MTV video of **Imaginary Music**. We filmed that when we were in New York City about a month ago. The record is doing very well. The video is really gonna push it over and it'll do a lot better than it's doing now."

**Any funny stories?

"The first funny story I can think of is Ray cracked his Jackson over Mike's head in Detroit, Michigan. It was the last note in **Living Dead** and we were coming down and Ray came down and Mike's head was right there. He cracked it over his head and Mike went down. He got back up and he said, 'Thank you, good night,' and went walking off. He wanted to come back on and do the encore and all of a sudden he fell down to his knees and there was blood all over him and all over the place. What was the most ironic thing was the fact that Ray cracked his guitar in three different places. His Jackson, a \$1,000.00 guitar. That's not really a funny story, but that sticks out.

"A second funny story is the first week we were out we were going

through the desert and Drew and I ran out of gas in the truck in the middle of the desert in the middle of the night.

"Third funny story I have is: Drew and I were driving in the truck and the muffler blew up in the middle of a thunder and lightning storm. We had to get underneath the truck and kick the muffler out. Both of us got soaking wet in the middle of the night somewhere in Pennsylvania. The most funny thing is that happened twice like that.

"I had a guy come up to me in Pottstown, and this is the way it's been a lot of the time. He sat me down and said, 'I just want what you got, man. I want Jesus, man. I see the joy and I see how you guys are. I just want it.' So we prayed, he received Christ. A real, true conversion. I got to lead him to the Lord. It was funny how God brings these people in your way, 'cause there was 1,000 people there that night and there I was praying with one individual. It's just, been like that the whole tour.

"Hopefully, when we go home, we're gonna be recording two new songs for Christmas singles. They're gonna be pretty interesting tunes. They're not written yet, but they're kinda half done. I'm pretty excited about that. We're gonna go home in L.A. and the Record Plant is gonna be coming out in their remote truck. They're gonna do a 24-track live recording. It's possibly gonna be put on a cd and used later on. We also have another live video that's gonna be marketed pretty soon. (It's hot. Very upclose and clear.) A lot of stuff's comin' out. There's gonna be a flood of Barren Cross everything. You can buy your Barren Cross Mike Lee doll at your nearest drug store."

For parting words, Jim says, "We would really appreciate the support of the Christian people in the clubs. We're going on a club tour. We would appreciate the Christians not being afraid to go into these places, because the light shines brighter in the darkened places. We really need the Christian support inside the clubs."

Before signing off, Jim remembered something else he wanted to say: "After reading the interview in Heaven's Metal #16 about the equipment I use--for all you bass players out there trying to find horse pedals, there's no such thing as horse pedals. They're called 'Taurus pedals.' I play a Gallien Kreuger, not a Gametry. It was so funny (laughter). All these bass players that are into Barren Cross are gonna be searching their brains out trying to find a Gametry RB 800. You'll never find it as long as you live."

* **Conquest** is a new Christian rock mag with some very skilled artwork in it, plus myriads of interviews, etc. For info, send 50 cents to: Jeff Cooke, 966 Washington Ave, Muskegon MI 49441.

The Cutting Edge. Great mag, reviewing tons of music each issue. Subs are \$9.00 for one year (12 issues). Write: Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando FL 32810.

* **Gospel Metal**, a hot metal mag from LA, stays in touch with some killer bands. Subs are \$5. Sample issues are \$1.50, plus 50 cents postage. Send to: Keith Day, c/o Gospel Metal, 3331 E. Romelle, Orange CA 92669.

* **Kosher Records** handles imports, most records in print and some that aren't! 900 N. "L" Street, Lompoc CA 93436.

* **Rizzen Roxx:** full metal explosion. Speed, glam, heavy and screamin' metal. PLUS fiction, insight, and RAD comics. \$3 for 2 samples, \$4 for 3 issues, or \$9 for six issues. Send & pay to Rizzen Roxx, 10202 Tamarack Dr, Vienna VA 22180.

* **White Throne** is an underground mag covering Christian heavy metal. Issue #4 is out, so get it! Send \$2 to: White Throne, PO Box 20577, Dept. Zap, Castro Valley CA 94546.

* **The Burning Bush.** c/o Jason Bauman, Route #1, Mineral Point WI 53565. Issues of this publication include interviews, reviews, and news on all types of Christian rock (new-wave, punk and metal). It is a bi-monthly mag and is \$5 per 6-issue term. Checks and Money Orders payable to Jason Bauman.

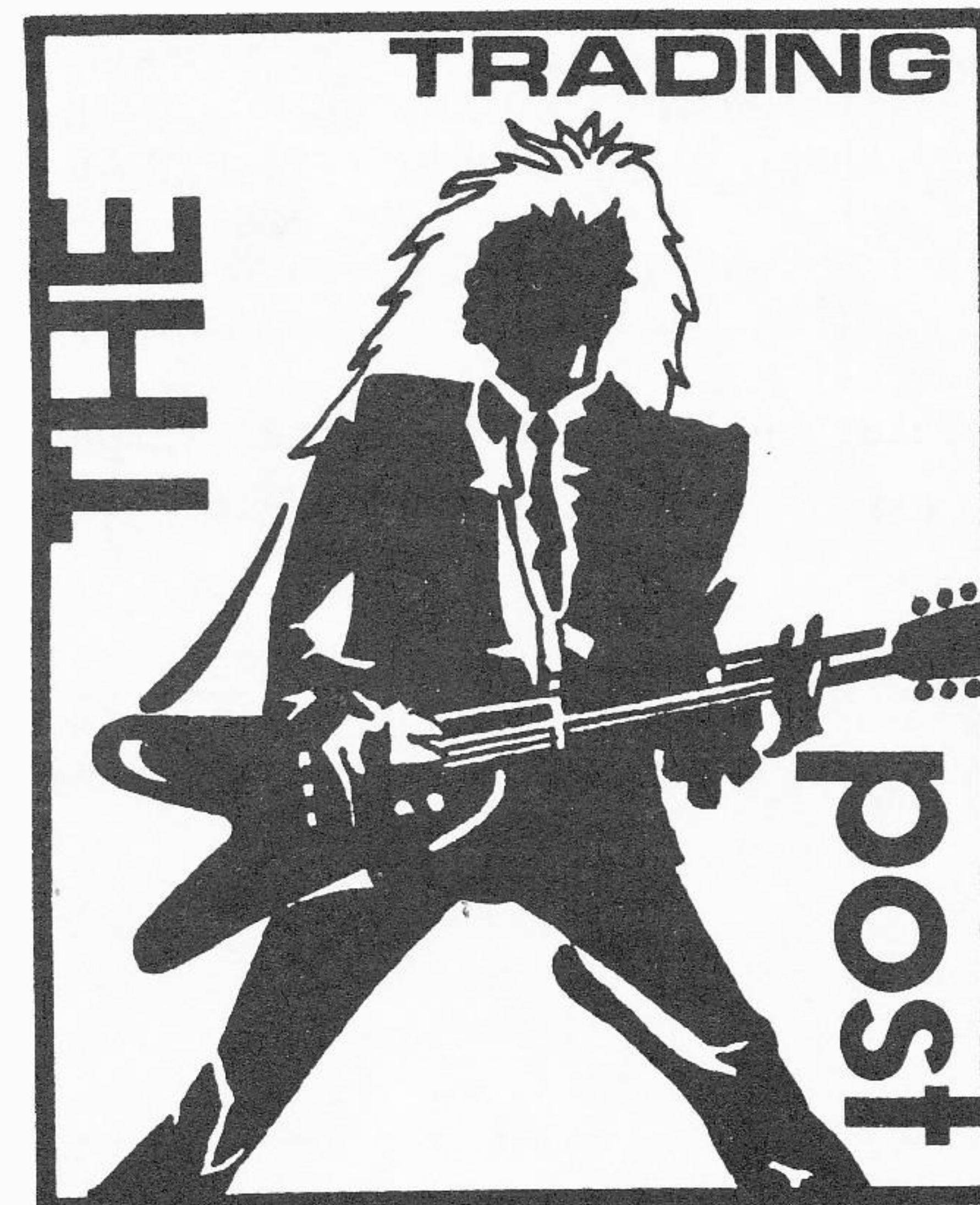
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* **Take A Stand:** Christian rock/metal musicians newsletter. \$6 for 6 monthly issues. Send long self-addressed, stamped envelope for free first issue to: Take A Stand, PO Box 10741, Scottsdale AZ 85271.

* **NOTEBORED** - Progressive Christian music with an East Coast edge. Feature articles, interviews, record reviews, concert reviews, underground acts, news, columns and up-and-coming East Coast bands. Current sample issue - \$1. One year (six-issue) subscription - \$5. Payable to NOTEBORED, Box 202, RD 1, Atglen PA 19310. It's a great newspaper!

* **THE OBLIGATOR** is a new Christian newsletter dealing with God's Word and God's rock, new wave/punk, and metal. \$1 for a trial issue (\$1.75 overseas); \$5 for six (overseas \$9). THE OBLIGATOR, PO Box 751, Portage MI 49081-0751. Bands: They want to review your demos.

* **The Activist:** the newspaper of "Radical Truth Through Art, Music, and Social Commentary" ceased printing on May 1, 1988, with issue #21. Samples are still only \$1. Write for the line of available back issues before they are all gone. Also, get copies of Rebel Graphics #1 for only \$2. These are moving fast. Chris Yambar and the entire



staff thank you for your support since 1981. Send checks payable to: Manna Underground Press; 3833 1/2 Mahoning Avenue; Youngstown, Ohio 44515 USA. (We'll definitely miss your great newspaper Chris!!)

* **White Metal Alternatives** is here! News, lots of reviews, interviews, rad art, thought-provoking opinions and articles, testimonies. \$2 for sample (\$3.50 Overseas). \$6 for sub (\$12 Overseas). Quarterly publication. Make checks to Allen Arnold, 1402 E. College Ave Apt. K-240, Normal IL 61761.

* New radio show on Sat nites from 8 to midnite. "The last hour we pull the plug and rock." Send info for their metal slot to: Kingdom Bound Productions, Fred Caserta, 306 Sundown Trail 5H, Williamsville NY 14221.

* **Help the suffering church!** To hear prayer requests updated weekly, call the Open Doors Prayer Alert Line toll-free 24 hours a day: 1-800-426-2411. Also, consider writing a letter to our brother in prison, Vladimir Rusak. His camp address is: Vladimir Rusak, 618810 Permskaya oblast, Chusovskoi raion, pos. Kuchino, uchr. VS-389/35, SOVIET UNION. You can also help him by writing diplomatic letters of protest to: Ambassador Yuri Dubinin, Embassy of the U.S.S.R., 1125 16th Street NW, Washington DC 20036.

* Attn: Bands! Get some press in the OCR newsletter. Call with info (513) 322-5555. 1100 Sunset Ave, Springfield OH 45505.

* **Christian Rock Productions** needs rock, thrash, metal videos (preferably 3/4"). They have a two hour show on six cable systems. PO Box 13843, Roseville MN 55113.

* **Abortion Is Murder!** Help stop it by picketing an abortion clinic.

* **Play in Dallas!** Contact The Prophet to get booked there. (214) 742-2615. 2713 E. Commerce St, Dallas TX 75226.

* **Progressive Christian Metal Band** seeks talented singer and drummer to form a full time ministry. Have lots of original tunes waiting to be performed. Must be dedicated to the

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Lord and to His work. Must have time and talent. Anyone interested please call Steve at (703) 361-3041 after 4 pm or write 8103 Portwood Turn Apt. #3, Manassas VA 22110.

* WSSA, which airs "White Metal Explosion," seeks singles, records, and cds. They will accept cassettes, but you must include the writer, publisher, and the copyright. Send to: PO Box 831, Morrow GA 30260. (404) 361-8843.

* If you're a born-again Christian and excited about Jesus, I want to be your pen-pal. Write Liz Vaczy, c/o 2426-9 Avenue N, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1H 1J5, Canada.

The Break-up of Barnabas:

Nancyjo's Story

Barnabas was one of the premiere metal bands on the Christian market. They were eclectic, blending true art with emotional power rock. Epic, ten minute songs were the norm for this band from Oklahoma.

This is the band that practically nobody saw live. They only ever played about 12 times. They released five albums, the last three of which were metallic, and then disappeared.

The band came to a mutual decision to disband prior to the recording of their final album, **Little Foxes**.

"There was a lot of hurt," says vocalist Nancyjo Mann, "even though it was a mutual agreement that we disband. When you put eight years of literal blood, sweat and tears into something, and then to realize it was over.

"I'd had such a strong hope that, given some time to rest and re-group, Barnabas would go on. When I realized it was dead, I was devastated. From the depths of my feet, I cried. I grieved over it like a person died.

"The reason for disbanding wasn't anything heavy that came down, nothing weird. It's just, as you get older and grow wiser in the Lord, and He calls you into something different, you go in that direction. It wasn't like anything bad was between us. We just had some mixed feelings and things like that."

The band disbanded before **Little Foxes** was recorded. "We had to do it under contract with the record company."

The quality of the album, in Nancyjo's opinion, was far below the band's potential. She was amazed over the favorable review it was given in Volume II Issue #4 of *Heaven's Metal*.



"It was such a hurtful time. I called Ralph Carmichael, from the record company, and talked with him. I said, 'You don't make a band who's disbanded record an album just because the former vice president says so. You just don't. You give them six months to work through the feelings that come along with the disbanding of a group that's been a family for eight years. Then you would have a much better product.'

"Basically, at the time of recording, I hated every minute of it. I begged God for over a year to never allow that album to be released. Spiritually I was not up to it. My heart wasn't into it. I didn't want to sing and I had to sing."

A year after the album was recorded, it was released. "I was walking out the door one day and my son said, 'Hey mom! David saw your new album.'

"I said, 'What new album?'

"He said, 'I think it's called **Little Foxes**.'

"I said, 'Don't tell me **Little Foxes** is out!' I went flying out to the record store so I could hear this thing. I couldn't even remember what it was.

"I could have crawled underneath the table. The vocals were far below my potential. I don't make any apologies for it."

Since then, Nancyjo has had to make sense of what's happened and go on. "I said, 'Lord, the only two things I know how to do are speak and sing. I'm 34 years old now. I've got teenagers who are 14 and 17, come on. Show me what it is You want me to do.' I mean, my life's not getting any longer."

God showed her a really cool and much-needed ministry. What she saw grieved her. "It grieved me in

Barnabas. I never felt free to minister in Barnabas. I felt that the mentality of Barnabas was: 'Let's go out there and rock their socks off. Let's don't ever let the energy level drop, because if it drops, we'll lose them.'

"I think it's great to lead kids to Christ. It's great to get rededications, but I think it's a crying shame--and I mean this with all my heart, soul and mind, cause I've watched it many, many times with my fellow brother and sister artists--when you go in there and rock and roll, and then we just talk about how wonderful it is, 'Let's get born again, etc, etc, let's serve Jesus with all our hearts, souls and minds,' yet many don't receive real ministry.

"One out of four girls sitting in these audiences has had an abortion. Six out of ten of them are going to be pregnant before they're eighteen. One, every ninety minutes, is going to kill themselves. One, every thirty minutes, is going to die in a drunken driving accident. We have kids who are being sexually molested and suffer child abuse. We have mental health problems that are going down. We have kids who are getting high right inside Christian concerts with cocaine and grass and everything else. I watched it. We have kids who have not enough clothing. We have kids who have no food in their home.

"Why can we be so pompous as to sit there and say, 'Be born again, God bless you, good night. We're so glad you came.' I think it's time that the artists start realizing that the audience is not there for them, but indeed the artist is there for the audience, period. I believe that, if we cannot meet the needs of our young people at a concert, then

there's something seriously wrong with us.

"The Lord's been showing me, out of the book of Haggai, that He wants the temple rebuilt. 'You go to your luxury, panelled houses. You eat and you don't get filled. You drink and you don't get drunk. None of this...I want My temple rebuilt.' Well, the temple in the New Testament is us--the Body.

"He says, 'I want it rebuilt.' Jesus tells us He's coming back for a bride that's holy and spotless and blameless before Him. Not for a church that's mutilated, cut, has gangrene, is bleeding to death and infected.

"God says, from the second chapter of Haggai: 'I will draw on the wealth of the nations. And I will bring their wealth together. And The silver is mine, and the gold is mine.' He says, 'The former will be greater than the latter glory. I will bring peace unto this temple and I will be well pleased.'

"To me, the nation is the city we're playing in. In that city, there's lot's of ministries that are specialized in homosexuality, pornography, child abuse, drug and substance abuse, mental health, food, clothing, sexual abuse, pregnancy, post-abortion trauma, etc. 'I will take and I will draw on the wealth of these nations, and the silver and the gold is mine.'

"As far as I'm concerned, the silver and gold are the ministries in each city that are refined in Christ."

Kids that come to these concerts will be able to: meet Jesus; rededicate; and be set free from bondage. They'll be able to see Christian professional people and say, 'Yeah, I've got a drug problem,' or 'I need to dry out.' They'll have access to professionals who are specialized in: suicide; runaways; child abuse; pornography; post-abortion trauma; pregnancy; and many other problem areas.

"I don't care if it's a crowd of 5,000 and 2,000 kids have needs. The needs will be met that night. If they're hungry, they will eat and they will go home with some groceries...and the food banks will get to them the next day. If they don't have enough clothing, they're not warm enough in their house, then they will have the ministries that will take care of that and have their families taken care of.

"We need to minister to these kids that night. What are you going to do if some kid comes to know Jesus and goes home and gets beaten and sexually molested? Are you going to say, 'Oh, Jesus is alive and well'? We've had fan mail like that.

"He said, 'You clothed me when I was naked, you fed me when I was hungry, took care of Me when I was sick, you came and saw Me. To who you've done to the least of My brethren so you've done unto Me.'

"We need to help them with their problems and needs, so they don't have to walk out thinking that all they got to hear was neat words

about Jesus, which is always real good, and then go out and smoke a joint, get in a car wreck and kill themselves.

"That's what I'm getting ready to do. We will rock and roll. I will do hard rock, contemporary rock, soft rock, and some ballads. It's all different guys in the band. I'm going to see where Jesus takes it. I think it's gonna go somewhere, because it's taken so much to get it together.

"I ran from God when He showed me all this. I was like Nancy Jonah. Gary and I almost ended in divorce, our kids were living with different people. I started drinking and smoking pot again. I mean, I ran.

"The only thing I find so cool about the whole experience is that Jesus, when you come back to Him, He doesn't say, 'Sorry Nanc, you just failed five grades, go back to kindergarten and start again.' He says, 'Now that you're here and know who to keep your eyes on, I'm not going to put you back to kindergarten. I'm going to let you go on right where you left off. In fact, what you've learned is worth about two grades worth. Go ahead a little bit, Nancy.' I learned a lot of hard lessons from that.

**"I THINK IT'S TIME THAT
THE ARTISTS START
REALIZING THAT THE
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THERE FOR THE AUDIENCE,
PERIOD."**

"I don't mind telling the world where I screw up, 'cause I love telling about the grace of Jesus and the forgiveness that He's got for you. Don't use your salvation as a weapon of sin. I flat out walked away from Him, buddy. I turned and went the other way.

"I almost died ten months ago. I had six little spider bites on my face. (From the Brown-Recluse Spider, much more deadly than the Black Widow.) I almost lost the whole side of my face, head and neck. I'm not scarred at all, not a blemish.

"The plastic surgeons are going, 'Whoa, where did those big black holes go?'

"I said, 'Jesus took care of it. I found out He loved me, and He healed me. He loves me from my head to my heart.'

"I came to know Jesus having third degree burns on 50% of my body. I haven't had one graft and don't have any scars, except one on my knee from having four knee reconstructions--just so I could

walk again.

"So, I came to know Jesus, and when I met Him, He did a miracle. He gave me brand new skin where there used to be scar tissue from third degree burns off the asphalt road from a motorcycle that dropped at 75 mph. I smeared down a highway, no helmet, no nothing. I had my face, my breasts and my back left, that was it. The rest of me was two and three inches deep with black tar, rocks and gravel imbedded in me.

"I believe I've had a microscopic, minute taste of hell. You can't quench your thirst. You can't get away from feeling like you're on fire, because you burn so bad. And when you meet Him like that and then I walked away...what a fool.

"He's so loving and kind. When we goof, He lets us learn from it. That's what makes a difference. Can we learn from it? And I did. I pray that, through His grace, I'll not ever fall like that again. I'd love to boldly say, 'I'll never do that again,' but I used to say that see, and then I fell."

Nancyjo's heart, boldly revealed here, will hopefully be able to minister through her musical vision, called "Knowing Heart Ministries", in the near future.

If you'd like to write Nancyjo, send your letters to: PO Box 298, Edmon OK 73083. She welcomes any with problems in the sexual area, pregnancies, post-abortion trauma, etc, to write. _____

Record Reviews

Recommendations this issue go to: **This Is A Condom Nation** by Lust Control; **Neon Cross**; **Just Another Injustice** by Mark Farner; **Fear No Evil** by The Watchmen; and, believe it or not, **In God We Trust** by Stryper.

In God We Trust - Stryper

I like it! I bet I'm going against the grain in the Christian metal scene, but then again, I didn't expect Stryper to sound any heavier than **To Hell With The Devil** did. This album sounds like "To Hell With The Devil Part Two."

It's got a couple straight-ahead rockers, like the title track and **The Writing's On The Wall**; plus about five commercial pop metal tunes, similar to **Calling On You**. They are: **Always There For You**; **Keep The Fire Burning**; **It's Up 2 U**; **Lonely**; and **Come To The Everlife**. It has two ballads again: **I Believe In You** and **The World Of You And I**.

The World Of You And I is a classy ballad, along the lines of The Scorpions. It has a pretty acoustic guitar throughout and some good, expertly-produced vocals. I think this is the way Stryper ought to do ballads. Forget this grand piano idea. The acoustic guitar makes it seem more like a metal/hard rock

band doing a ballad. The last song on the album, which Stryper traditionally rocks out on (**Loving You; Surrender/ Battle Hymn; and More Than A Man**), is a pseudo-thrasher, called **The Reign**. Robert belts his snare to death as Oz chops his way to ecstasy.

The lyrics are more upfront evangelistically than they've ever been for Stryper. **The Writing's On The Wall** tells it like it is and has an urgency behind it that says, "If you don't accept God's forgiveness, you'll go to hell," which is the first sense of judgment ever put in Stryper's lyrics.

"The truth is right before you/ don't confuse it. No matter what you've been through/ He can change it, 'cause He is our God/ Creator of all. Unless you accept Him/ you continue to fall. The battle is real/ on you He will call. So don't ever wait/ because the writing's on the wall...don't wait until tomorrow/ tomorrow's too late. You've heard the truth/ so what will you do? Who will you choose? He is our God..."

This song is the hook that may bring in a huge catch of unsaved Stryper fans. There'll be no getting past this song, thinking that it's about a girl. The listener is pressed to choose, and choose today. I praise God for this, because Stryper has a huge audience. Over a million people will buy this album and they'll all be presented with a choice and also pressed for a decision. There's a big difference in just presenting the gospel and presenting the gospel and pressing for a decision, like "What's it gonna be?"

Besides being real hot lyrically, it's my favorite song on the album. It's got a really neat lick in the intro that sounds like Spanish guitar, only with an electric.

Overall, I think this is a very good album. For you metalheads that only appreciate gnarly metal, don't get mad at Stryper. Accept them for who they are. This is where they're going and they do it well. That's the big difference: they do what they do very good. They're not just wimping out and doing trash, they're going after that commercial sound that kinda sorta fits under the category of heavy metal. Bon Jovi has shown that this is a winning formula. They were voted "Best heavy metal band of 1987" by Rolling Stone Magazine. The production on **In God We Trust** is very impressive. The guitar sounds in most of the songs, especially the title track, are really hot.

--D.V.

Just Another Injustice

- Mark Farner

This is a great album. Mark Farner has shown that he's still got that winning formula inside him, that made Grand Funk Railroad successful. This album is chock

full of blues riffs, subtle melodies and real smooth vocals. This is a great sample of Southern rock--Jesus style. Mark's sound is not too distant to Darrell Mansfield. (Talk about a killer double bill! Naah, it would be too good to be true.)

Judgment Day Blues and **Jesus Loves Me** rock the house down. This is genuine Southern, Midwestern, Harley-Davidson, good ole rock and roll. Buy a copy for a biker. If he doesn't get saved, he's at least gonna love the music. Seriously, this tape is a great tool for evangelism. It's got a big sticker on the front, which says "Formerly of Grand Funk Railroad." The music and lyrics are from the hip and they're real. There's no pretension or cheap answers, just real life stuff.

Jesus Loves Me should please anyone in the church...well, almost. It sure is a boogien' tune.

This ain't metal, but it sure is a great record. If you like Darrell Mansfield, Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Outlaws, Blackfoot, or Vision at all, you'll love this! The ballads, like **Isn't It Amazing?** have a fantastic production. It's perfect! Farner definitely knows how to achieve that mega-hit sound. Maybe he'll get Frontline Records noticed by the world, which will open up the doors for all the Frontline artists, like Bloodgood, The Altar Boys, Darrell Mansfield, Idle Cure, Shout, Mad At The World, and Da.

--D.V.

This Is A Condom Nation

- Lust Control

Out of the same town that brought you Stevie Ray Vaughn and One Bad Pig comes Lust Control. This is some punky thrash stuff you gotta hear! This tape is so fun! The music is real fast in some places and just plain quirky in others. The lyrics are very confrontational. The tape title, **This Is A Condom Nation**, and the band's name let you know where they stand, as far as sexual sin goes. Maybe they'll tour with Josh McDowell on his "No--The Positive Answer" tour.

The tape starts off with **Grace**, a crunchy fast song that is occasionally interrupted by the simple verse of, "Grace!" The chorus consists of the sentence, "I'm saved by grace," repeated 14 times. This 10-song tape ends with a reprise of **Grace**, which creates a nice balanced framework around your basic "letter of the law" and "repent buddy!" lyrics typically found in this genre.

Rude Awakening is the next song, which is aptly titled. "Repent/ You've gotta change/ There's this big problem in your life/ and it's called sin." The music kills! George, the drummer, and Duane, the bass player, lay down a tight rhythm section, which is propelled by Stanley's frantic guitar leads. Gene's banal vocals seem perfect for this screaming/ shouting genre.

The next song is a classic. I can't decide which is my favorite: this song; **Mad At The Girls**; or **The Big "M"**. It's called **Madolyn Murry O'Hair (On Judgment Day)**, which is what the chorus repeats four times. Repetitive, yet smokin' music with the repetitive message of "turn or burn." Check out these lyrics: "Some people are so filled with hate/ For some people it's just too late/ Hitler is your new roommate."

Apocalyptic Nightmare makes a departure from the rest of the material. It's a way-out song that proves that some Christians still do drugs (Just kidding!). It starts out with some bizarre, Jimi Hendrix/ Pink Floyd-type meanderings and features a talking piece: "...We can't picture tribulation/ Let's invent the rapture/ and escape it all/ But wait! What did the wounded Messiah say? (The noise stops here and Gene shouts the chorus.) You will suffer too/ You will suffer too/ You will suffer too/ Just like Me!"

Side two features two back-to-back Lust Control songs (literally). **Mad At The Girls** starts off with a real cool, bluesy bass riff and tells the story of a guy working at a mall and being attacked with lustful thoughts when the schoolgirls waltz inside. This guy responds with, "I'm mad at the girls/ with their sexy smiles/ Mad at the girls/ mini-skirts are back in style/ I want to control my lust/ But my mind I cannot trust/ I'm mad at the girls/ Mad at the girls/ Mad at the girls/ I'm mad at myself!"

The Big "M" will probably win the Heaven's Metal award for the most controversial song of the year. It tackles an issue that's apparently been untouched in all of Christian music: masturbation.

The song has a weird, funky beat, not too unlike Adam Again, and an outrageous gang-vocal chorus of "Masturbation!--Is artificial sex." George's snappy drumming sounds great here, accenting Duane's groovy bass line, which stops suddenly for shouts of "Forget it! Get real!! It's artificial sex," and "...Take all thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ."

The entire tape has a real raw, live sound. Overall, it has above-average production for a thrash-type project. The vocals are pretty easy to understand, but definitely retain that underground style. For example, there's an off-key yodel at the end of **Madolyn Murry O'Hair** that makes you cringe and laugh at the same time.

You Make Me Puke, another glamorous song title, drives home a powerful message from Revelation 3:18, that being lukewarm will get yourself spewed out of God's mouth. "You're not cold, you're not hot/ You don't know who you are/ But I know what you're not/ You make Me puke!" It's a totally gnarly song, very similar to One Bad Pig, early Undercover, and Eric Blair.

The last song on the tape is an

old hymn, called **There Is A Fountain**. It's a very metal-ish song, with a real heavy, plodding rhythm, similar to Black Sabbath's early stuff, like **Iron Man**. Really! It's even got your talk about blood and screaming, followed by a dramatic chant of "guilty," before it goes into the **Grace** reprise.

This tape is hot. After listening to it for the first time, One Bad Pig's Kosher was blown away. "I'd love for our band to open up for Lust Control anytime."

To order **This Is A Condom Nation**, a statement which is unfortunately true (Maybe their next album will be called, "Sodom And Gomorrah Fared Better Than America (On Judgment Day)"), send \$7.00 to: Lust Control, PO Box 180981, Austin TX 78718-0981.

Their press release indicates that there are no photos of the band, they don't do interviews and they don't play live. What a shame. I bet they'd put on a great show.

--D.V.



Neon Cross - Neon Cross

A very deserving, original band has made their full-length vinyl debut. This is hot, non-stop metal. You'll hear ten songs on this tape that never let up. It's an album for metalheads only, not written to try and reach a bigger, commercially-oriented market.

Outstanding cuts in Christian metal's vault of classic tunes are **We Are The Children (Of Our Lord)** and **Far Cry (From Eden)**. I was actually disappointed a little bit on the production of these songs versus the demo. These versions are a little more polished and a lot less out of control than the demo versions, but they're still very original and extremely good vocal performances. I absolutely love 'em!

This album features some great rhythm and blues hooks. **Heartbreaker**, the opening cut, is a good example. What can I say? This album is hot. It doesn't blow you away, but it does rock your socks off for 43 minutes.

I'm Not Alone gives us a good look at the spectrum of Neon Cross' music. It starts off as a ballad, with a pouting vocal performance by David Raymond Reeves; then it starts

ripping into a pounding beat, by drummer Michael Betts and bassist Ed Ott, and distortion--the skilled guitar chops of guitarist Don Webster.

(This Is) The Right Time is a good commercial anthem. The background vocals are done well, sounding like Def Leppard. There's a good, yet simple, guitar break in the middle of this one.

Run Into The Light is a rockin' tune, dude! This song could get any crowd rockin'. The rhythm is just so killer.

Buy this album, crank it up and rock out. It'll give you enough radical drumming and guitar runs to make you exhausted just listening to it.

Don't forget that the cd is available for only \$12.98. Spring Arbor can get you this album within a week, no matter what U.S. city your local Christian bookstore is in. Their ISBN #'s are: 790-082-1457 for the cassette; 790-082-1449 - album; and 790-082-1465 - disc. Just walk in to your local Christian bookstore with this number and say, "I want to order this."

To obtain Neon Cross merchandise, like t-shirts, etc, write 'em at: PO Box 3052, El Segundo CA 90243. Wait till you see the cover art in full color!

--D.V.

Contender (demo)

Out of Tone Zone Studio in Chicago comes "purified rock music" from Contender. In the tradition of Rez, Contender belts out gut-level female lead vocals, driving rock 'n' roll, and an upfront message.

Don't Do It encourages those contemplating suicide to turn to Jesus, because "your life's worth living." Outstanding guitar work on this one. Nice solos and hi-vol metal! The lead vocals are passionate, but they are sometimes off key. The ballad, **Guilty Of Love**, reminds us that Jesus was crucified for the crime of...love. The guitar solo cries on this one--very moving. **Serpent Slayer** features a semi-new wave chorus that sounds a bit dated. But the bass guitarist and drummer add nice touches to the song. As usual, guitars are screamin'. **Kiss Me Not** commands evil "in the name of Jesus" to "just go away." The song sustains the high energy felt throughout this four-song cassette.

Overall, this is a good sounding tape. Musically, everything is happening. The guitar work on this project is especially impressive. However, the band might focus more attention on their vocal pitches. Still, **Contender** has produced an enjoyable tape. Check it out.

Write to Contender @ PO Box 444, Gurnee IL 60031.

--M.M.

Aaron (demo)

This demo tape features three of Aaron's songs: two hard rockers--**Tell Them** and **It's Here Again**--and a ballad entitled **I Will Remain**.

Sonically, the tape is lacking sufficient dB levels. The headroom (hiss) is obnoxious. Even though it's "only a demo," the tape should be listenable. Not many producers would have the stamina to endure to the end. So, sonically, this tape gets La Bomba.

However, underneath all the low fidelity noise there is some promising material. I was most impressed by the drums and rhythm guitar. (Unfortunately, I couldn't hear much bass guitar.) Drums are tight, chops are clean, and rhythm is solid and consistent. Rhythm guitar is crunchin'--definitely metal. Many flashy lead guitar players can't play rhythm, but Aaron scores high in this department. On the other hand, the guitar solos are lacking clear definition and direction. The solos don't fit the progressions.

What I really like about the tape is the way Aaron uses keyboards. Musically, the songs are arranged in such a manner that the keyboards really compliment the guitar work. No struggle here between keys and guitars--good team work!

Vocals are promising. Lots of passion and the lyrics are understandable (even without a lyric sheet!) **Tell Them** is a song which encourages us not to "shelve our witness" to God's love. **It's Here Again** has a vulnerable and candid lyric which addresses sexual temptation and something with which we all are confronted: lust. Aaron's answer to this often swept-under-the-carpet problem? Cry to the Lord for mercy and help "to walk away." Good stuff. **I Will Remain** is a song of devotion to God, promising to stand strong "when all the shakin's done."

I like the lead singer's voice: sounds like a cross between Bryan Duncan and Geddy Lee. However, the lead vocals occasionally drop flat (below the stylistic interpretation range...) and the BGs could use some serious work.

Overall, the music is good. The ballad, however, is weak only because the progression is redundant. **Aaron** is on the right track. Keep it up guys (especially the dBs!).

You can write Aaron for tapes, t-shirts, etc. at: PO Box 1131, Miss B, Mississauga, Ont, L4Y-3W4, Canada.

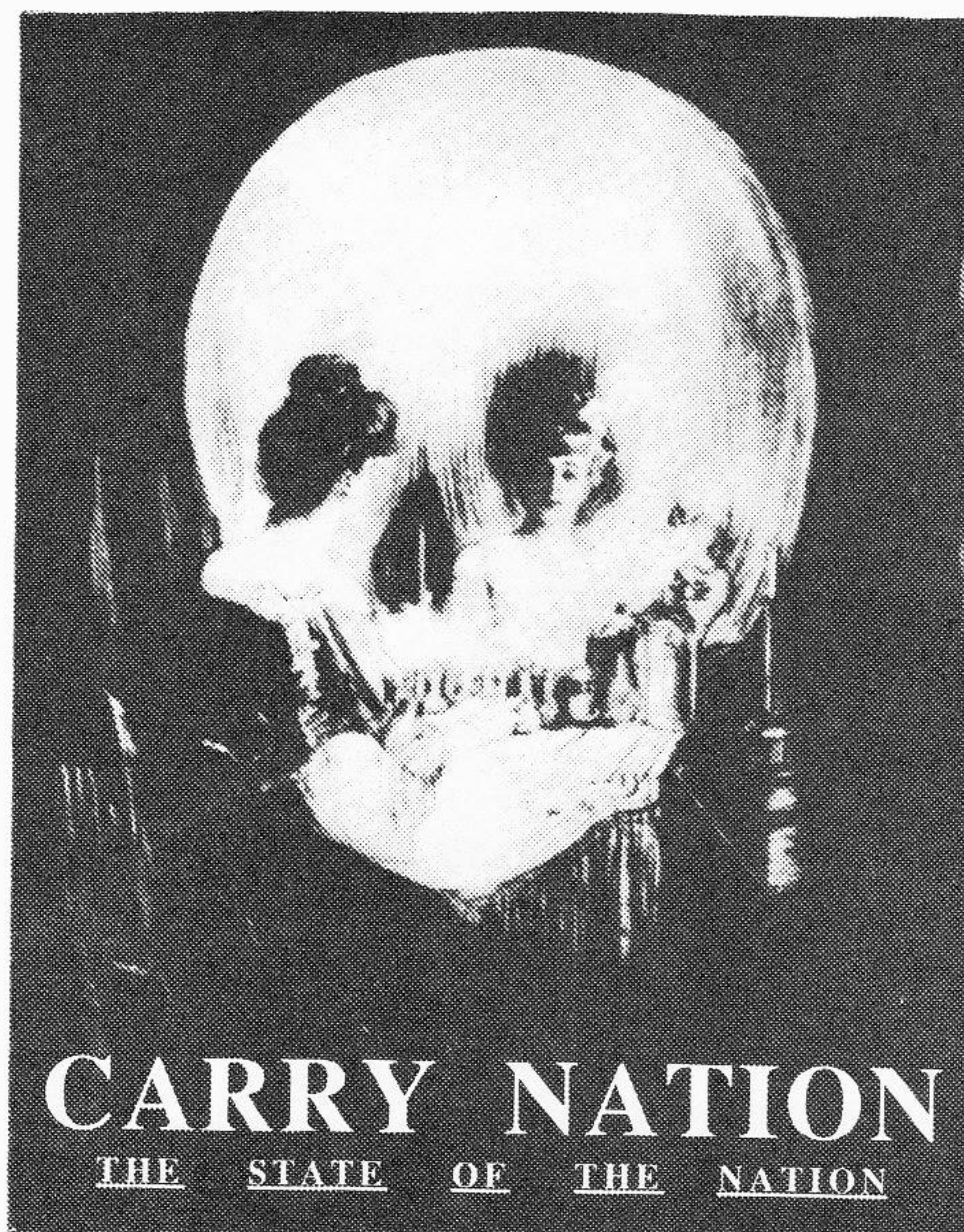
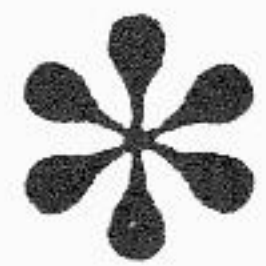
--M.M.

Chasin' Away The Night - Refuge

Refuge has produced a full-length, 9-song cassette called **Chasin' Away The Night**. The material falls in the dance-club-rock category. Drums

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There is a crisis in Christendom... the shepherds have scattered the flock...stupid shepherds who look only after their own interest... each trying to get as much as he can for himself from every possible source... living in evil pleasure even while fasting... I have not sent them, tho' they claim to speak for me... if they were mine they would attempt to turn my people from their evil ways... they are making up everything they say... twisting my words... inventing "Messages from God"... so I stand against these smooth talking "prophets" who get their messages from each other... weep and moan o evil shepherds, for your time has come to be slaughtered!

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Cont'd

and drum machines are way up in the mix, along with the vocals and keys. As a result, the guitar and bass do not dominate their sound, a la metal mania. But it is obvious that Refuge spent significant time working on the sounds on the tape. Mix is nice and bright, hi-energy, danceable rock 'n' roll. They sound a lot like Starship, Heart and Triumph. So, radio stations with Christian rock formats will enjoy this band's music.

The quality of the lead vocals really stand out in the songs. Great pitch, style, and tone. All the vocal arrangements have nice melodic hooks and the BGs sound primo, unlike many metal bands. The drums are poundin' away all the time. Bass guitar is solid. Keys are punchin' through, but some of the keyboard solos are a bit immature. Guitar solos are tasty, but they could have been a lot louder.

On my first listen to the tape, I thought: "This band has a solid evangelistic message." But on the second pass, I reconsidered: "Wait a minute. These songs speak to Christians as well. There is truth in the fact that we all need to keep turning to the Lord and away from the corrupt desires of our hearts." Old, crusty Christians need someone to "chase away the night" just as much as unbelievers. So, **Chasin' Away The Night** should appeal to a broad audience.

You can write Refuge at: 55 N.W. 94 Street, Miami FL 33150.

--M.M.

Into Thy Hands - The Awakening

You're gonna love **Into Thy Hands**. If you like aggressive, power rock, you're gonna love **Into Thy Hands**. If you like hi-tenor, crystal-clear lead vocals, choir-like BGs, energetic and surprising rhythms, and innovative guitar work, you're gonna love **Into Thy Hands**. If you like Yes (especially 90125 and **The Big Generator**), you're gonna love **Into Thy Hands**.

The Awakening delivers! Outstanding vocals! Masterful guitar sounds and techniques! (a la Phil Keaggy and Trevor Rabin). Tight rhythm section! Hot production! And what's this? A message?! That's right, a band with a relevant, moving message for the 80's: Commit your life into God's hands and you'll find unending satisfaction, joy, and peace--A message expressed in ways that move cold, tired hearts.

This is the most inspiring project I've heard in years! Finally, the drought is over.

You're gonna love **Into Thy Hands**.

--M.M.

Original Intentions

- The Lonely Now

In the vein of Simple Minds and early U2, The Lonely Now cranks out eight hi-energy, "New Music," dance tunes. Drums and bass provide a strong, danceable foundation for the band, while minimalistic, musical impressions are painted by guitar and violin (yes, that's right, violin!). A breath of fresh air, **Original Intentions** is a pretty good sounding record.

--M.M.

Safe Comix

Remember the cover art for the first issue of White Throne? Those graphics were only a glimpse of the great cartoons present in this 64-page Christian comic book. Do you like the comics you see in Cornerstone Magazine and The Activist, but can't seem to get enough of 'em? Well, you'll still be left wanting more, but here's a huge collection of thought-provoking, rib-tickling, outrageous, Christian underground comics.

Send \$2.50 per issue plus \$1 postage per issue to: Graphic Graphix; 3833 1/2 Mahoning Avenue; Youngstown, Ohio 44515. You can also get this through Spring Arbor. The ISBN # is 000-688-3192.

--D.V.

Fear No Evil - The Watchmen

This is one awesome tape! It's hot metal. Leads, hooks, crunching rhythms, smashing drums, rough, quality vocals, fantastic lyrics. This is The Watchmen. They're too hot to pass up! You can order it from Spring Arbor. The ISBN # for this is 000-692-0802. It's \$9.98.

--D.V.

Reviewers are Doug Van Pelt and Maury Millican.

Speaking of Spring Arbor ISBN #'s, here's a list of recent rad rock that's been added to their warehouse: **Free Indeed** by Contagious, 790-082-1686 k (\$9.98), 790-082-1694 d (\$12.98), 790-082-1678 r (\$9.98); **Crossforce** 000-688-7287 k (\$6.98); **Powerchange** by Divine Right, 000-688-1025 k (\$9.98); **Tongues Of Fire** by Divine Right, 000-688-0649 k (\$7.98); **Armed For Battle** by Emerald, 000-692-1019 k (\$9.98); **Warrior Of Light** by Force III, 790-060-3050 d (\$14.98), 790-060-3042 k (\$9.98), 790-060-3034, r (\$9.98); **Stand As One** by Holy Right, 000-669-1536 r (\$8.98); **Out Of The Silent Planet** by King's X, 000-687-9861 d (\$17.98), 000-687-9675 k (\$9.98); **Aslan** by Narnia, 000-692-0411 k (\$9.98), 000-692-0616 r (\$9.98); **Ruler** by Paradox, 000-692-0225 k (\$7.98); **Search And Destroy** by Philadelphia, 000-647-8948 k (\$9.98); **First Strike**

by Stryken, 000-669-2788 k (\$9.98), 000-670-1051 r (\$9.98); **Crank It Up** by First Strike, 000-692-1191 k (\$6.98); and **Frontline** by Armada, 000-692-4336 k (\$9.98).

Just show up to any Christian bookstore that uses Spring Arbor (There's 6400 of 'em) and tell the clerk you want to order this particular item and give 'em the ISBN #. Following each number here I printed a k for cassette, r for record and d for disc. The price for that item follows.

Concert Reviews

His II — Fontana High School

The second His Fest brought together 16 bands; 14 were local to Southern California, the two out-of-towners were Saint from Oregon and Bride from Kentucky. Eight bands played each day. The opening day started off with **Redeemer**. **Full Armor** was next, who put on an impressive stage show. Standout cuts from their set were "Don't Play With Fire", "Snow White", and "Eternally". **Spectra** took the honor of "band most likely to stand out in our minds the rest of our lives" for the impression they made with: nine-inch tall hair; a drum cage painted in rainbow neon; and 20 pounds of scarves, toys and junk tied to the vocalist's mic stand. They were a good band and did some serious witnessing too. **First Aid**, who got some good exposure in CCM's January article on metal, delivered an exceptionally professional show. It was refreshing to hear a new voice in the Christian rock scene, and lead singer Lisa Hayford pulled off the job well with her raspy vocal lines and good range. Drummer David Holman says that they're planning on releasing a three-song EP soon. **Eternal Ryte** put on an excellent, entertaining show. At least 90% of the bands over both days played a power ballad or a melodic song that started out mellow and got heavy later. Out of all these songs, Eternal Ryte's Bobby Smith had by far the best overall and especially "clean" sound to his guitar. **Contagious** played a powerful set, playing many tunes off their "Be Ready" EP. **Emerald**, sporting green, black and white stage garb, performed a strong set, mostly with tunes from their "Armed For Battle" EP. One of the most rousing songs was "Trader", which is about the musicians who do not give glory to the Lord for their God-given talents. They've acquired a new drummer since they recorded their EP. Todd Norris is the new drummer. "This is actually the first Christian show we've done," says guitarist David Enos, "and it was a really anointed event. We look at

ourselves more as a band of Christians rather than a Christian band. When we started out, we wanted to go out to the whole world--this was even before Stryper started out--because we felt our songs were to be sung to the world rather than to be sung in churches. We would rather sing songs to lead people to the Word than to preach to them." **Bride** put on a good show, making good use of the stage, playing off each other and racing up and down the drum riser ramps. They actually played a set on both days!! Dale theatrically acted many of the songs. **X-Sinner** opened the second day, with their brand of AC-DC style metal. Keith Miles, Holy Right's vocalist and organizer of His Fest I & II, introduced X-Sinner by saying they sounded like AC-DC. "When I first heard these guys, I thought someone recorded an AC-DC tape and gave it to me as a joke." The band's set was very tight musically. The band took a break at one point and the drummer came out with a Bible and delivered an excellent, Spirit-filled talk to the audience. **Antioch**, a young band together for 14 months, took the stage next. They weren't too big in the stage presence department, but what they lacked in showmanship, they certainly made up in musicianship. Their bassist, Less Deal, is the son of Motley Crue guitarist Mick Marrs.

****You're a radical Christian and your grandfather (Mick's Dad) is a minister, so has that made any kind of spiritual impact on your father? Have you had a chance to share the Good News with him?**

"I'd like to see him get back into it," says Less. "I'm working on him slowly! It's very hard for him because of the position he's in. I can't try to force him into anything--I just have to be a witness."

Touche' Touche', another young and talented band, put on a good show. They've gained a good following and experience from frequently playing secular and Christian clubs in the L.A. area. **Jordan** had a slight delay getting their set started because Rod, their lead vocalist and guitarist, had a previous commitment to play in a Sanctuary church worship service. They're a three-piece band from the Long Beach area. One thing that greatly stood out was the excellent overall sound quality of the band. If these guys were this good live, I'm sure they'll sound superb on tape!

Witness gave a great show with their hard-driving rock and bold stand for the Lord. Not a lot of frills to this band, opting for the more casual look, just some exceptionally blessed musicianship and music. Expect to hear more from these guys! **Deliverance** has obviously gained an even larger audience since the Metal Mardis Gras last September--and rightly so because of the absolute talent and diversification of the band and, of course, with the motto,

"Faster For The Master", they're a speed metal fan's dream. Back to being diversified, many have gotten a taste of Deliverance's spectrum of music from "A Space Called You" and "Attack", their two songs on "California Metal". These guys can do a ballad (and vocalist/guitarist Jimmy Brown can pull off some awesome vocal lines), go to a Country & Western interlude, and then go back to playing 64th notes in a guitar solo! Deliverance has a new guitar player, Glenn Rogers (formerly of H.E.R.O.), who replaced Marcus Colon.

Although I thoroughly enjoyed watching the show, yours truly was not too excited about getting banged up trying to get some photos of Deliverance amongst the people "moshing" in the front row--which encompassed the entire front of the stage, 10 feet back and about 50 feet across--so there was no escaping it. Now, I like Deliverance. I've seen fruit off their ministry, and I do like their music, but there was something that left my spirit ill at ease about all this moshing. I felt like there were two things the Lord put on my heart: first, to put others before ourselves (Gal. 5:13-14); and that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16-17). Granted, we didn't hear about anyone getting really hurt (praise God!), but still, you have people completely out of control, running and slamming into each other, and we're (The Take A Stand staff) just at a loss for finding anything that Biblically says it's okay for Christians to release frustration, energy or joy (no, this was not "moshing in the Spirit") in that manner. Maybe some thrash veterans can give us some insight on this.

Malachia, who don't really fit into the true metal category by definition, or any category for that matter, played next. They've almost made a category for themselves, and that originality impressed us most about the band. **Saint** headlined the show the second day, and received a very warm and well-deserved welcome. Saint's energy remained high throughout the show, while skillfully delivering many of their well-known songs off their two previous albums, as well as from "Too Late For Living." Their drummer, John Perian, delivered probably the best drum solo of the entire festival.

--Christy Arnold

Christy Arnold is the editor of Take A Stand, an international Christian rock newsletter that faithfully comes out each month, reviewing tapes and interviewing artists. She's a musician and writer, which makes for great reading. Also included in each issue is a correspondance directory, where you can write fellow Christian rockers. You can subscribe for six months by sending \$6 to: Take A Stand, PO Box 10741, Scottsdale AZ 85271.

Daniel Band In Toronto

Good news! Daniel Band is not breaking up! Daniel Band had announced before Christmas that Bill Findlay would be leaving the band due to his responsibility as a husband and a father. Dan, Matt, and Tony then got together and decided that it would be best to go their separate ways. A while later they met up again and decided to continue their ministry as a band, needing only to find a replacement for Bill.

The album-release concert was held on March 25th at the Riverdale Presbyterian Church in Toronto. I thought the attendance was poor, considering it was thought to be their final concert. There were three opening acts, starting with a group called "4 Crying Out Loud". They have a great name, but their music needs a lot of polishing up. Their songs had seemingly no distinct melody or rhythm and was very crowded. Next came Martin Barret. He provided some great originals and some well known songs with the words or style changed a bit. It was only Martin and a 12-string on stage, and, considering the crowd was mainly metal, he received a very positive response. Next Narnia (formerly Aslan) hit the stage and really rocked! These five guys were really tight and knew their music well. They play a kind of progressive rock, somewhere between Rush and Daniel Band. Look for their first album entitled "Aslan" in April. Finally Daniel Band came on, starting with "Bethel" and "Rise Up". Tony then apologized for Dan having a cold and not sounding his best, although it made an interesting little difference in their sound! I noticed later that Dan was gargling between songs. They then rocked on with: "Party In Heaven", off the new album; "Run From The Darkness"; "Black Or White", new; "You Don't Need The Blues"; "Pretty Little Hands", new; and "Two Roads". Next Matt threw in an amazingly clean drum solo before the band flowed into "Sixteen" and "I Like To Rock". Tony had his usual screaming guitar intro to "Somebody Loves You". They then mellowed down the set with "I'm Sorry", and you could really notice the difference in Dan's voice since the beginning of the concert. Bill took over with a few words from the Bible and his own life. Bill told us to never doubt God's power, using the Titanic as an example. One of the engineers of the Titanic said the ship was so unsinkable that even God couldn't sink it. Oh yeah? After 15 minutes of a fulfilling message from Bill, Tony finished off the concert with "In My Mind" and the popular choruses "Praise The Name Of Jesus", "Hallelujah", and "Thank You Jesus".

Let's thank God for the Daniel Band's ongoing ministry and pray for a continuous blessing from Him.

--Dan Stawski

Malachia - - That Popular East Coast Band From California

Malachia, that band with those gothic, mid-70's keyboards and a three and a half octave lead vocalist, are preparing a new single to send to radio stations. Being produced by John and Dino Elefante, it's gonna be a sample of the next album, which may be out this summer. They're also working on getting a video done with the single, which is called "Runaway".

****How did Malachia start?**

"April will be our third anniversary as a band," says bassist Wade Little. "I wanted to put a band together that had the same goals and direction that I had. I love music. Music can reach out and touch you in so many ways. I wanted something that was gonna be a positive force to help go get the negative, satanic forces that are out there just bombarding the kids in the music and the lyrics. I wanted to put something together that would counteract that in a way.

"Ken came along about two months after the band started up. Chima came along next, he'll have been with the band two years this June. Jeff came along one year ago, November. Dave came along one year ago, December."

"Fortunately," inserts Chima, "I joined the band just as they were finishing up the final over-dubs and mix-down of **Under The Blade**."

"We keep that album in the closet," jokes Wade. "It's the family joke."

****Why did you choose the name and pronunciation of Malachia?**

"There's kind of a humorous story behind that. One night I was up late and couldn't sleep. So, I decided I was gonna look through the Bible for some things and see if I could come up for a band name. I searched through and found Malachiah, which stands for 'messenger of God'. I said, 'That's something I want.' When I started auditioning, I told people our name was Malachiah. Then, I was having business cards made up and I spelled the name wrong. I had forgotten about the 'h' at the end there. That's why our name's spelled the way it is."

****What is the story on the Russian tour?**

"Our manager at the time," says Chima, "who produced **Red Sunrise**, had some contacts with people who work with some underground churches. It was kind of a lofty goal that we couldn't gain any support for. We couldn't get financial support for it, so we put it back in the 'dream file'."

"There's some short-wave radio stations which broadcast into Russia that plays Malachia."

"We just got a distribution deal with an agency in The Netherlands," says Wade. "They'll distribute **Red Sunrise** throughout the European continent."

****Where is most of your support**



Photo by Doug Van Pelt

Wade and Jeff jammin' at Mardis Gras

at?

"We're more popular back East than we are in California. There's so many bands out here, it's incredible."

"Heavy metal bands are like cockroaches out here," says Chima.

"We're getting airplay on over 100 stations across the U.S.," says Wade. "Most of it's from Florida up to Maine."

****What's gonna happen with the L.A. metal scene?**

"It's gonna blow up!" says Wade. "The promoters are gonna get rich. The bands are gonna get poor."

"Right now," says Chima, "every secular and Christian metal band is trying to get in on the last train out for success. The promoters are getting real rich by making the bands pay to play in the clubs. In the secular field, it seems to be a competition to who can be the most outrageous and who can be the most shocking. At this point, none of it's shocking anymore. It's just re-hash, posers and the same old song and dance."

"I think it's like a trend," says drummer Dave DeVaughn. "The last couple of bands are gonna hop on this train. After Van Halen got signed, there was a big period of nothing. No bands were getting signed. It was kind of dead for awhile. Right now is really prime time for metal. Christian metal is really gettin' up there. I think it's gonna reach a point to where it's gonna level off and go back down again. We're living in times now, where things are real sporadic. Here one minute, gone the next."

"I think the bands that make it anywhere beyond the metal scene are the bands that are ready to make a transition out of metal to styles a little more lasting and a little more classical."

"You'll notice that the two new songs on **Red Sunrise**, **Lonely Is The Night** and **Sightless Eyes**, differ considerably from the style of **Under The Blade**. Even the production of the old songs on the **Red Sunrise** album show the direction we're going (For example, **Master's Call**). We wanna keep the metal feel and sound, but we want to have kind of a progressive edge so, when we move on to different styles, it's nothing that's so alien to the present sound we have."

Malachia has their own sound, because of the diversity of the band member's styles. Genuine musicianship is present, so you have a quality sound. "We try to incorporate those different styles in the music we write. That way we don't sound like a clone of any one band in particular."

"Jeff is influenced by fusion," adds Ken. "We hired him because he had Steve Morse's autograph on his guitar (laughter)."

"I guarantee that the next album will sound like Malachia," promises Ken, "but I think people are gonna be real surprised because it's gonna have a real different feel to it. It's definitely not gonna be a **Red Sunrise** re-hash. The music has progressed."

"We're gettin' away from the drudge metal stuff and gettin' a lot more upbeat. We don't sound West Coast. I don't think we'll ever sound West Coast. We'll still sound European."

"I really haven't listened to too many bands lately," says Chima. "I found that the heavy organ sound works really good in some forms of metal, because it acts like a second guitar. I'm really getting into more sampled digital sounds and going more for the orchestral padding kind of sound. I did a

worship album, produced by the guy who produces Terry Talbot. It was one of those things where he had taken me on because I had the ability to pad. That's the sound I'm really going for now."

**How did you guys get your record deal with Victoria Ltd?

(Total roars of laughter) "Ken Roberts, our old manager--that's basically his own label," says Ken. "We never had a deal with him. It was basically, 'Here, let's put this name on it so it'll look a little better. When we parted ways this last December, that has changed. Basically, we have a financial backer. The albums now have a different name on them. It doesn't mean we're signed with anybody. It's just a name.'"

"Once we get our single and our video done," says Wade, "we're gonna sit down and plan our strategy to get label interest in the mainstream market."

"The Christian market expects to sell 50,000 or 60,000 units. Once it gets to that, it stops. We're shooting to get beyond that, Lord willing."

"We think the Lord is moving us away from the 'religious band' stigma. A lot of Christian bands are trying to get in on the Christian music scene, playing the Christian circuits and stuff. They have this idea that 'Let's do this Christian music scene and then we'll cross over to the secular music scene and we'll do a lot of preaching. It seems like the Lord is moving us into an area where we're trying to get into the marketplace along with other bands, Christian and non-Christian. We're not so much called to be preachers, but to be Christians in the marketplace...just like any other Christian who has a job. He goes out and he does his job to the glory of God. he takes the opportunities God gives him to minister and to share and to love people. We're kind of in a place where we'd like to get a contract with somebody, but we don't wanna just take a Christian label, because they come up and offer it to us. We wanna be out in the marketplace and not just circulated in the Christian market place. It seems like we're just becoming Christian entertainers and not really able to do any qualified ministry."

"I think our attack is more one on one with people at our shows," says Wade, "like with the other musicians. We go into a show. All these other secular bands have this attitude like they're gonna blow these other bands off the stage. We go in there and say, 'Hey. Do you need help with this?!' We help them with their equipment and they look at us and go 'Wow! What is this? What do you guys want?'"

"We've gotten flack about 'Why don't you guys preach?' and 'You guys should be preaching out of the Bible' and stuff like that. We're not called to be preachers, at least at this point."

"We're called to love the people we come in contact with," says Chima. "Everybody in L.A. has heard the Word, but they haven't seen the walking. It looks like God is calling us to do the walking. Thousands of other bands are giving them the Word. Because we don't preach, we're able to get into places where the preaching bands aren't accepted."

**What kind of lyrical direction are you guys taking?

"I write the lyrics and most of the music," says Ken. "I personally don't wanna see the band stuck in this 'we've gotta have 'Jesus' in every song' attitude, or 'we've gotta have the heavy Christian connotations in every song'. The single we're doing deals with a situation where a young kid I was talking to was having problems. His mom didn't want him to play in a Christian band, which he wanted to get into. He said he wished he could have her get into his shoes sometime and see how he feels. Sometimes he felt like just getting up and running away from it all. The song is from the standpoint of what this kid was feeling. A lot of people are probably gonna hear it and go 'This has nothing to do with Christ and it's not really a Christian song.' and that we're selling out or something. We feel like we have to sing and play about things we're feeling. It comes from the heart. The new Barren Cross album has some songs that have nothing to do about Christ. I think a lot of the bands are starting to break out of this mold where they have to just write strictly about Christ. There's a lot of things going on in the world. I don't think there's anything wrong with writing how you feel."

"A direction the band is going, as Ken is saying," interjects Chima, "that some of our lyrics aren't overtly Christian. In actuality, anything that comes out of our writing is gonna be Christian. It's not just coming from the heart, but coming from a heart that's been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. They may have these things that we're quoting scriptures, but we're looking at the world and feelings of other people from the viewpoint of a heart that has the Holy Spirit living in it."

"Someone may say 'Runaway' is not a Christian song. Well, it is, 'cause it's coming from the viewpoint of a Christian. The response may not be 'religious', but our songs are coming from the heart of a Christian. A heart that wants to look at things the way God looks at them."

"One of my goals is to get into the media and let people know what Christianity is really about. How it looks at the world and why. That way, the world will hear more than what Frank Zappa or Gene Simmons thinks about Christianity. They know nothing about it. They're basing it all on prejudice. I'd

like to get in there for the people who are standing on the fence between the world and Christianity, like I used to be...answering some of those hard questions that aren't being answered, like 'How does God feel about this? Why are Christians against abortion? Why are Christians against this and against that?' It's because we're looking at things the way God looks at them, not because we like to be unpopular and have people put us down for our beliefs. We can't help but look at the world the way God looks at it."

"I think we can be in a position, if the Lord puts us there, where we as Christians can have a say," says Dave. "For example, Stryper is in the spotlight. They have that opportunity where they can express their opinions. They're renowned musicians. I'd like to see more Christians reach that plateau where we have a say and can give the world and those out there our perspective."

**How can we pray for you?

"We really need a big dose of God's wisdom, continuously," says Chima. "There's a lot of business decisions that we're having to make. A lot of business decisions are being made for us. Our biggest struggle comes in knowing where does our responsibility from the hard work stop and where does resting in the Lord and letting Him do His thing start?"

"There's times where we feel like we have to go out and hustle ticket sales, but then are we supposed to be praying that the Lord would sell tickets for us? That's when we really need God's wisdom."

"I think the toughest thing is business. We are musicians and each have our tools, but to really make it, you have to have a real business mind. We really need that wisdom."

"We all need personal prayer. When you reach that point, the enemy hits you and tries to distract you."

"Also, pray for all the Christian bands. I have a fear of the bands becoming legalistic. A fear that bands will become judgmental of other bands according to what one band's convictions are. That a band's personal convictions will be used as standards for all Christian bands. Then bands will have to defend their position to the body of Christ. Pray that the bands will stay in unified Spirit. That they will not allow men to judge their calling."

"We want to thank the readers for their support, especially in the '87 Reader's Poll."

If you'd like to write Malachia, you can reach them at: 5113 Lankershim Blvd, North Hollywood CA 91601.

Go to Omaha for Labor Day Weekend! Leviticus is making their first ever U.S. appearance on day one of the Heartland Music Festival. Day two will feature Larry Norman and band!



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Jesus loves you. He died for you. Imagine being told that you were going to be murdered by the government. Would you stick around the capitol city where you could be found? Jesus did, and his sweat became drops of blood, an occurrence that sometimes happens when someone goes through incredible amounts of stress.

Imagine one of your best friends turning you in to the authorities. What if over 700 armed soldiers came to arrest you and take you away? Imagine all your friends deserting you at this point in time, as you are led to a local church leader's office, where a group of people who want to kill you were waiting. These people try to frame you and they ask you who you are. When you tell them, all present demand that you be executed. Then they spit in your face. They slap you in the face. They hit you in the face with their fists. They hit you with rods. There's so many people around you, attacking you, that it's hard to tell who's hitting you. These people, filled with rage and hate, know this and cynically ask you, "Prophecy to us. Who hit you?"

At around five o'clock in the morning, these religious leaders conclude that you must die. You're bound with chains and physically led away like a dog on a leash. You've had no sleep. The only thing keeping you awake is pain. You're taken to the governor for a mockery of a trial. Several of your enemies are falsely accusing you in front of the governor, who quickly loses

control of the situation. In order to stop a riot, the governor hands you over to the mob's wish. He asks the crowd what they want and they all shout, "Crucify him!" Then your shirt is removed and you are whipped with a "cat of nine tails," almost as a show to feed your enemies' hunger for your punishment. Each leather strand on this whip has sharp little bones and pieces of steel tied to it, which dig into your flesh upon impact and tear chunks of flesh out when the whip is jerked back. You are torn with this whip 39 times, an incredible torture. Then, as if you hadn't had enough, you're taken into a giant room, where all 700 of the soldiers that arrested you surround you in a circle. They take off all your clothes and put a scarlet robe on you. They weave a crown of thorns and put it on your head, representing a crown, and then place a reed in your right hand as a mock sceptor. They then bow down before you in false worship. Then they spit on your face and rip your beard out, tearing out chunks of flesh with it. Then they take the reed out of your hand and beat you over the head again and again. At this point, you are so bloody and beaten and swollen that no one can even recognize that you're a human being.

Imagine undergoing all this torture knowing that you're going to be crucified. You're taken to a hill called "The Skull," where all your clothes are taken off again in broad daylight in front of hundreds of people and you're forced to lie

down on a cross. The soldiers hold your wrist flat against the wooden cross beam as they pound a nail the size of a railroad spike into your wrist. They do this to each hand and then they take your legs and nail them to the vertical beam of the cross. The pain is indescribable, but it's about to get worse. They lift the cross up and you begin to be suspended by the nails through your body. All your weight is being held by the nails. Then the cross is dropped into the post hole so it will stand by itself, and the weight of this impact sends sharp signals of pain up and down your body.

Now you're suspended up on a cross in between two thieves who are also being crucified. You can see the soldiers cast lots for the seamless garment you wore. People that are walking by are hurling insults at you. Your worst enemies, filled with hate, are laughing at you and mocking you.

Could you handle all this? Jesus couldn't. It killed Him. He went through all of this just for you. He took this punishment as a substitute for the punishment we deserve for our sin.

The good news is He rose from the dead and all of your sins can be forgiven. All you have to do is realize that Jesus paid the price for your sin. Cling to that realization and believe it in your heart and confess that Jesus is Lord. If you do this, Jesus will realize again that all He went through was worth it...for you.